



TALES OF MARYADA RAMA

THE FAIREST JUDGE OF ALL

Vol 633





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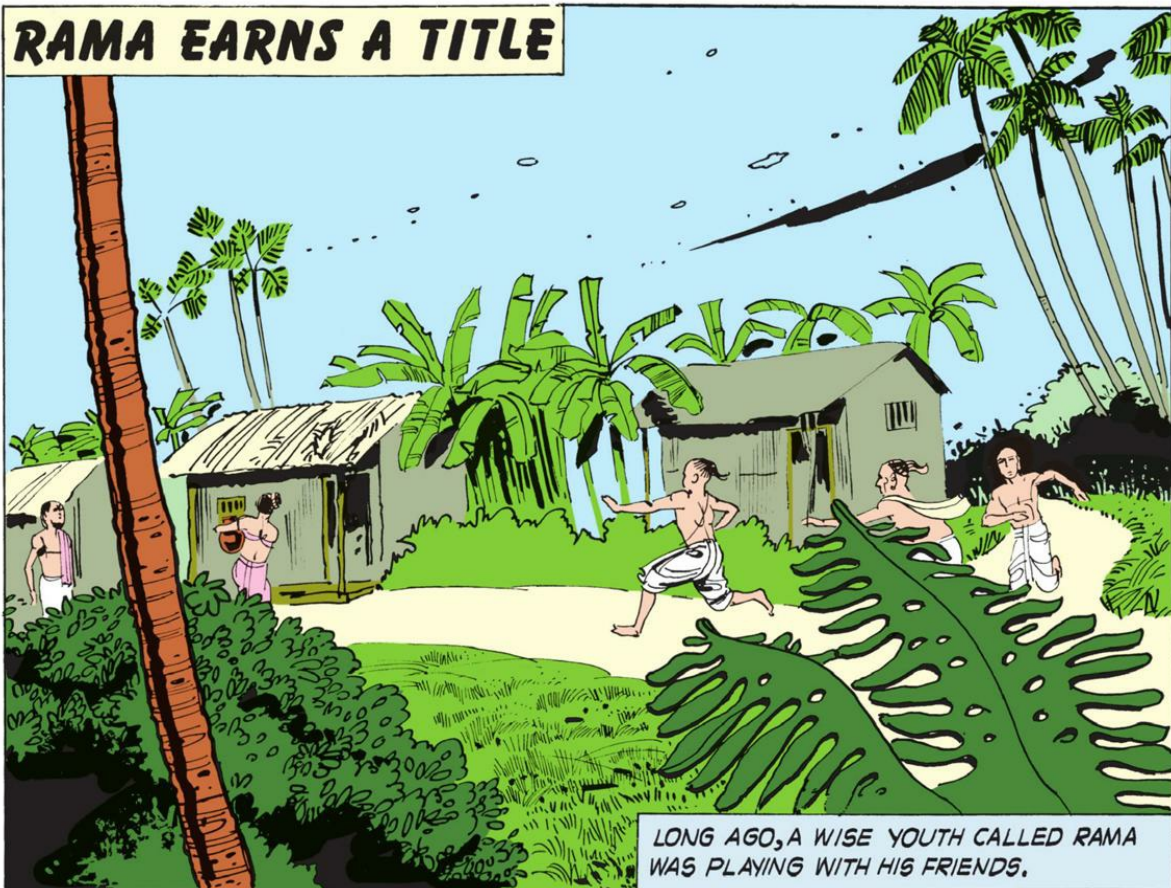
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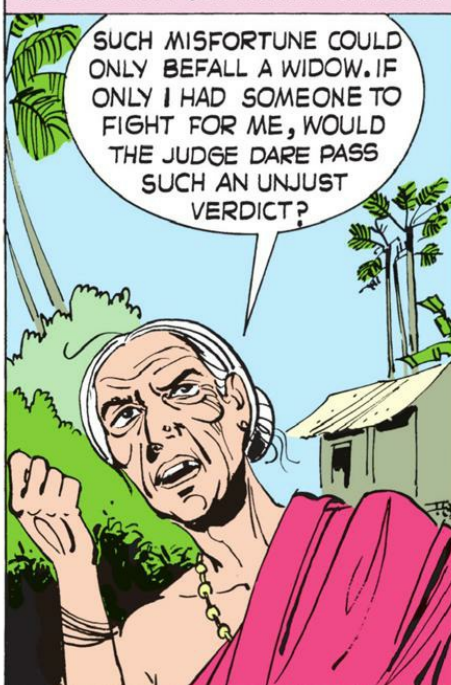
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RAMA EARNs A TITLE



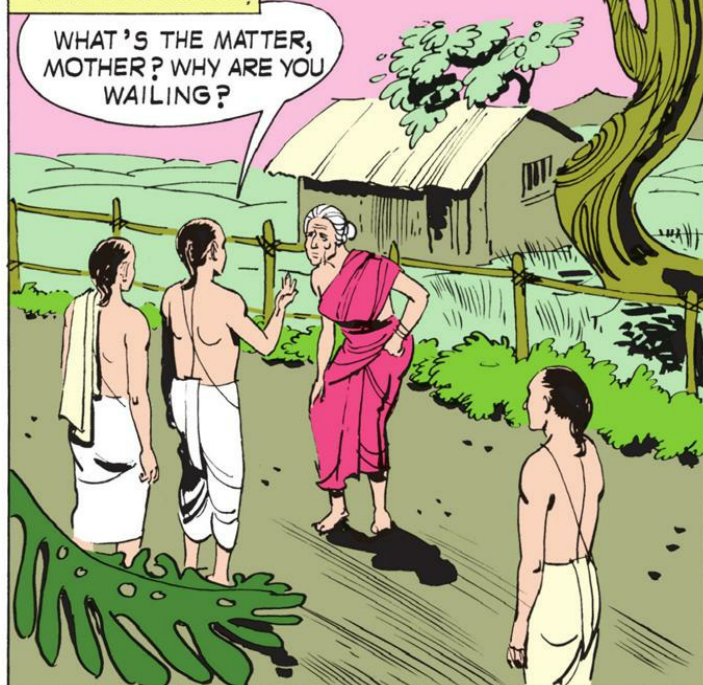
LONG AGO, A WISE YOUTH CALLED RAMA WAS PLAYING WITH HIS FRIENDS.

SUDDENLY AN OLD WOMAN CAME BY.

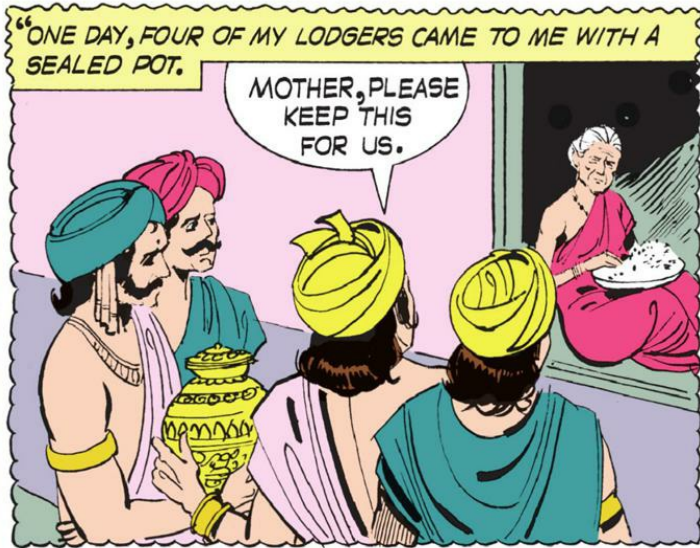
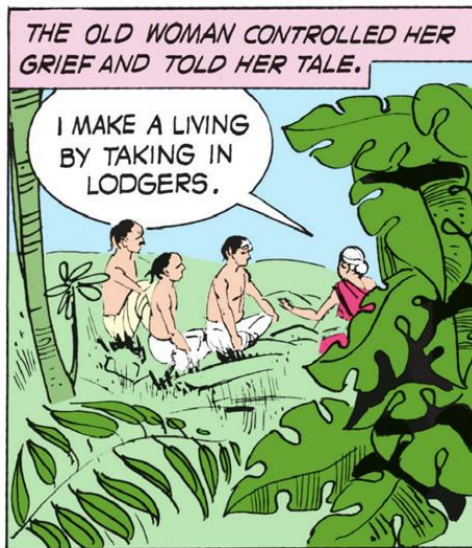


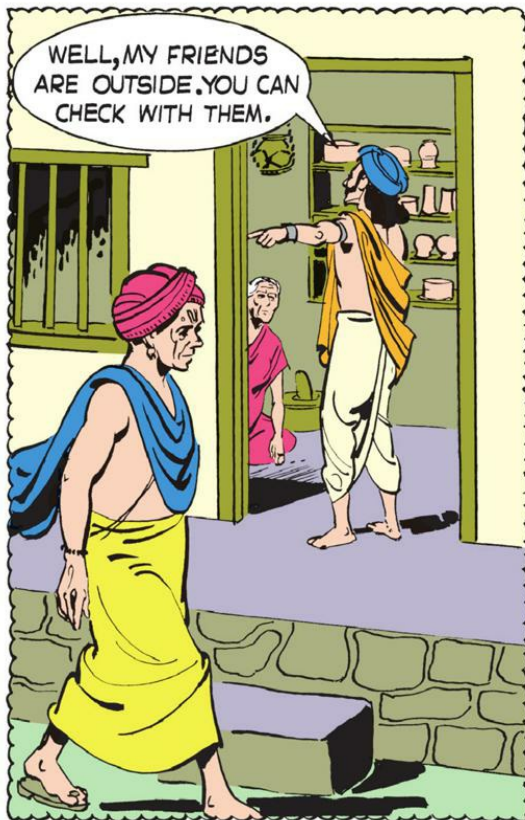
SUCH MISFORTUNE COULD ONLY BEFALL A WIDOW. IF ONLY I HAD SOMEONE TO FIGHT FOR ME, WOULD THE JUDGE DARE PASS SUCH AN UNJUST VERDICT?

RAMA WAS MOVED.

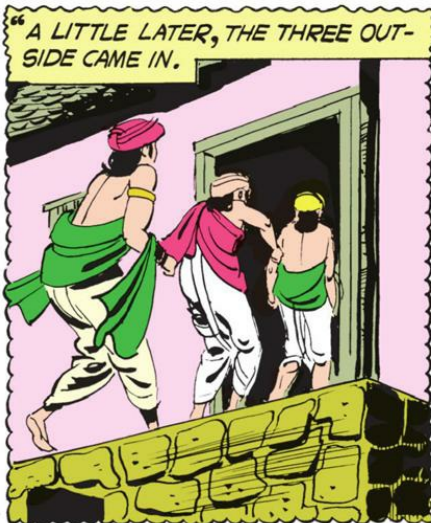


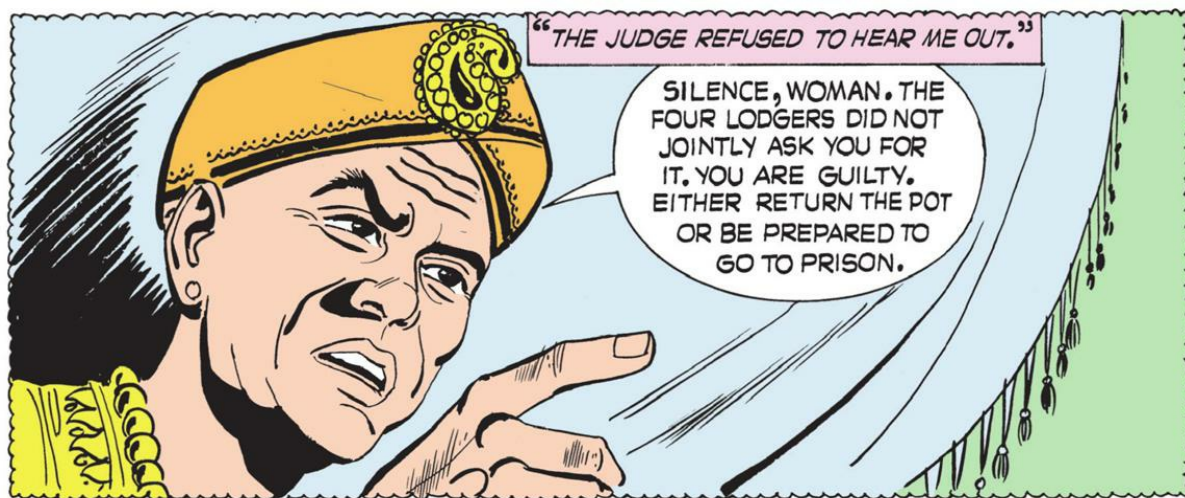
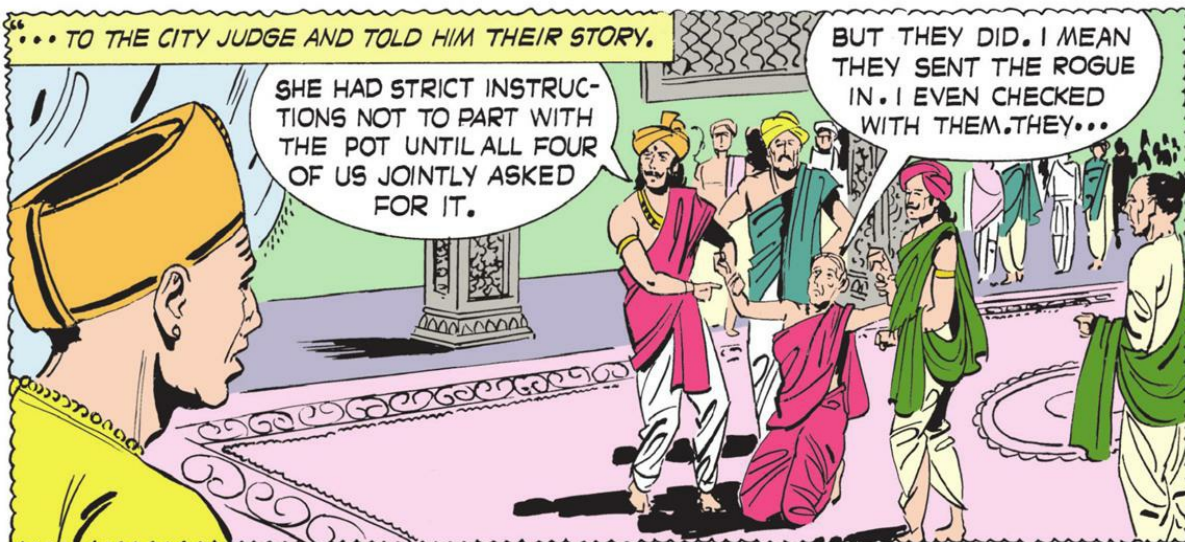
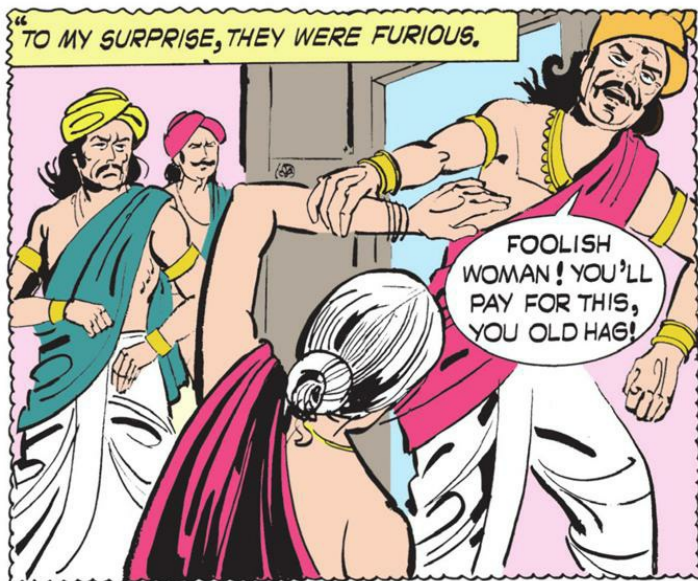
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MOTHER? WHY ARE YOU WAILING?

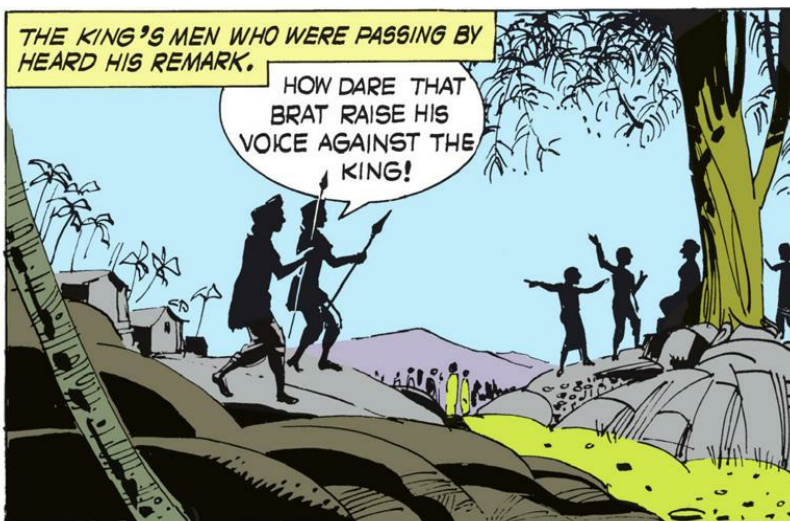
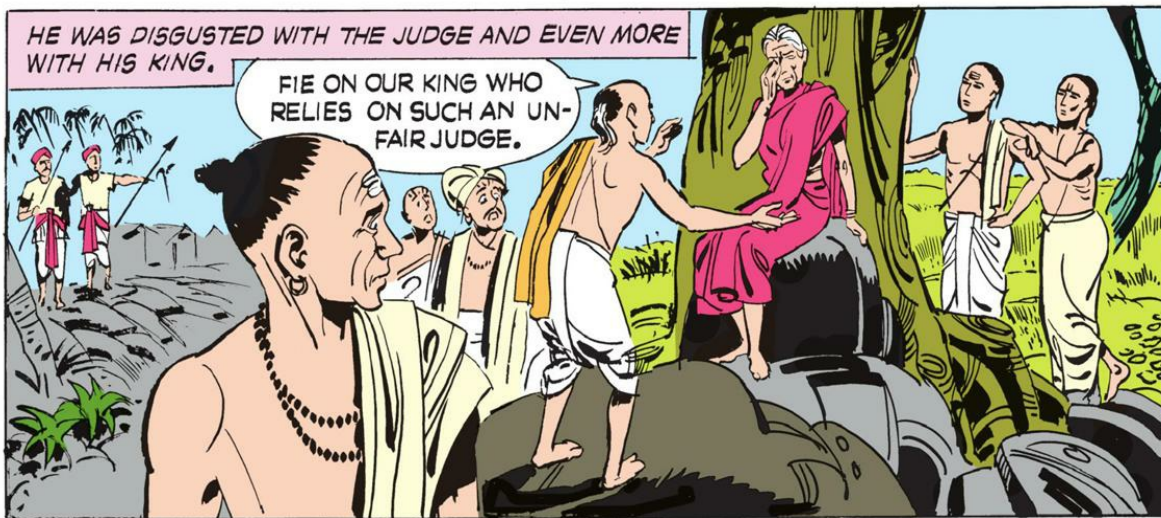
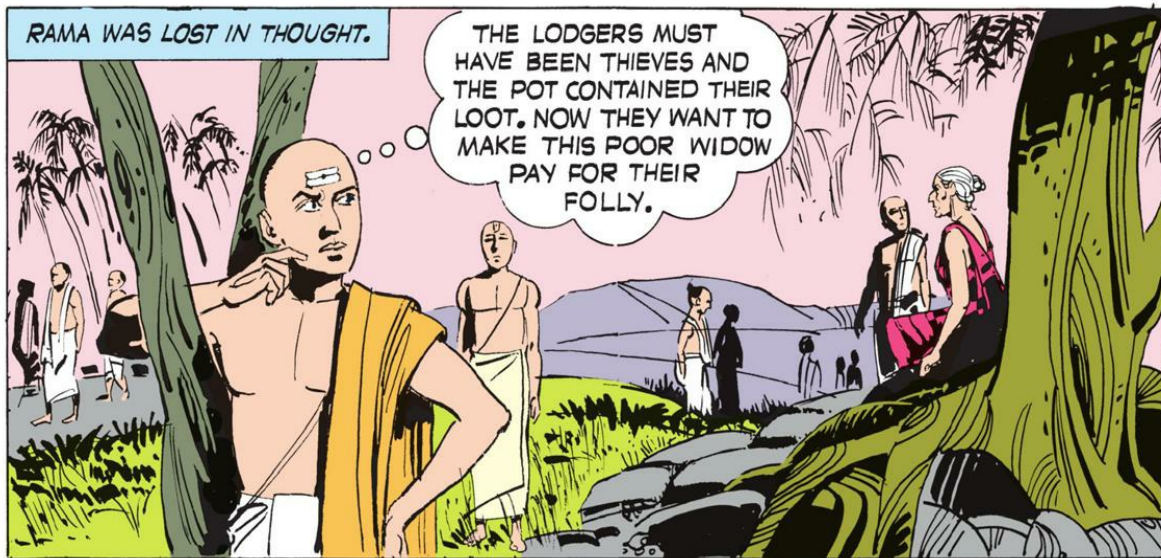




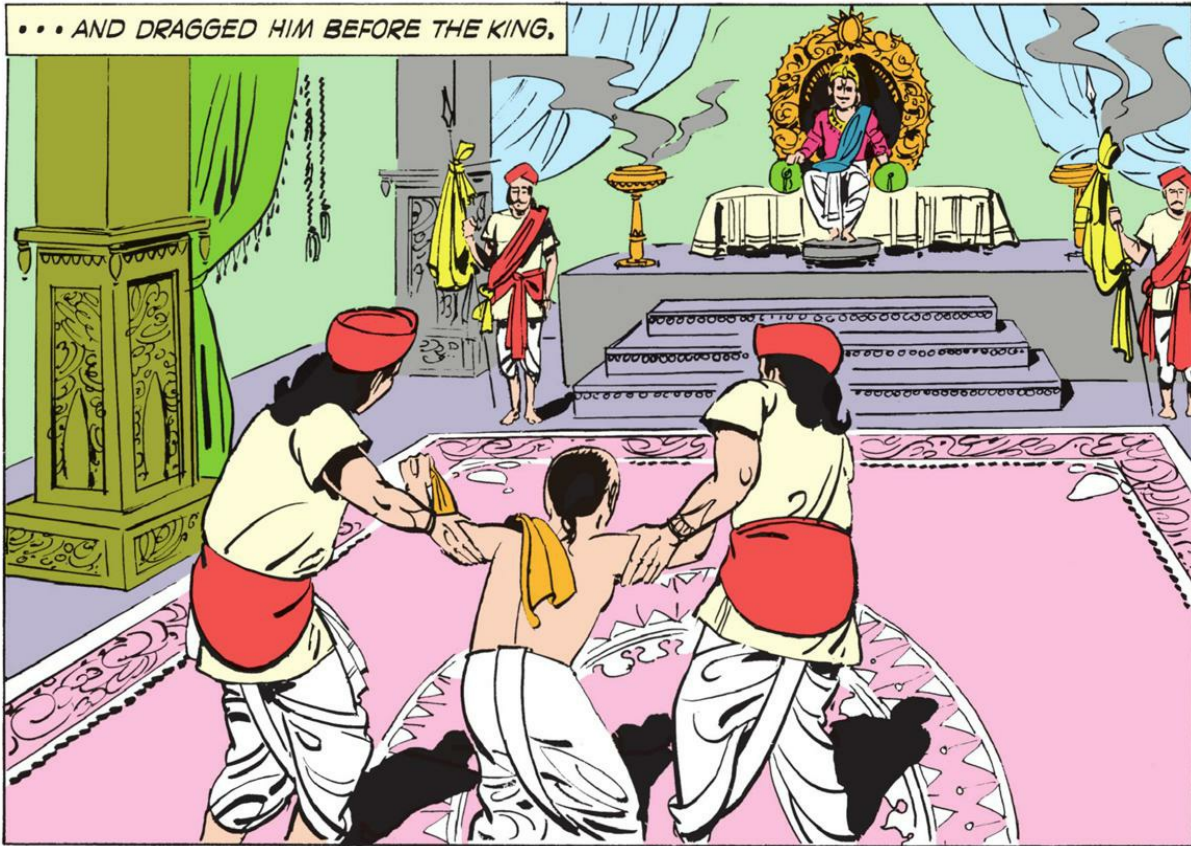
I UNDERSTAND. PLEASE CONTINUE, MOTHER. WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?







... AND DRAGGED HIM BEFORE THE KING.



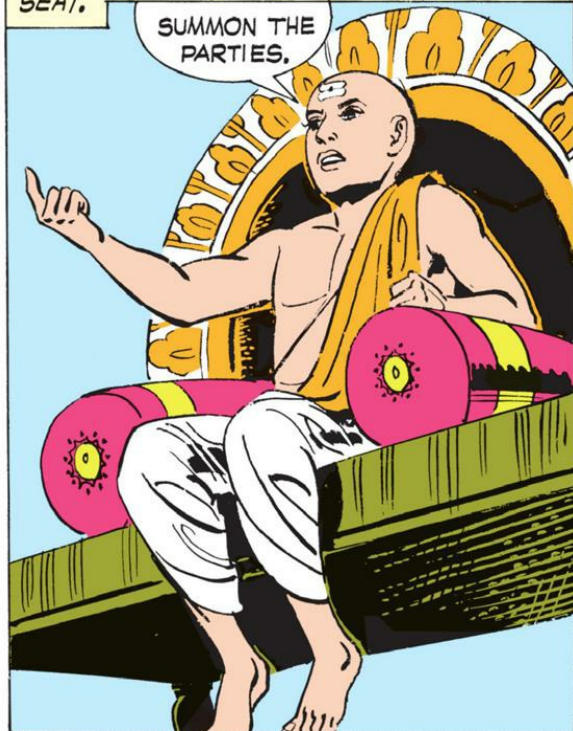
WHEN THE KING LEARNT WHY RAMA HAD BEEN BROUGHT BEFORE HIM, HE WAS AMUSED.

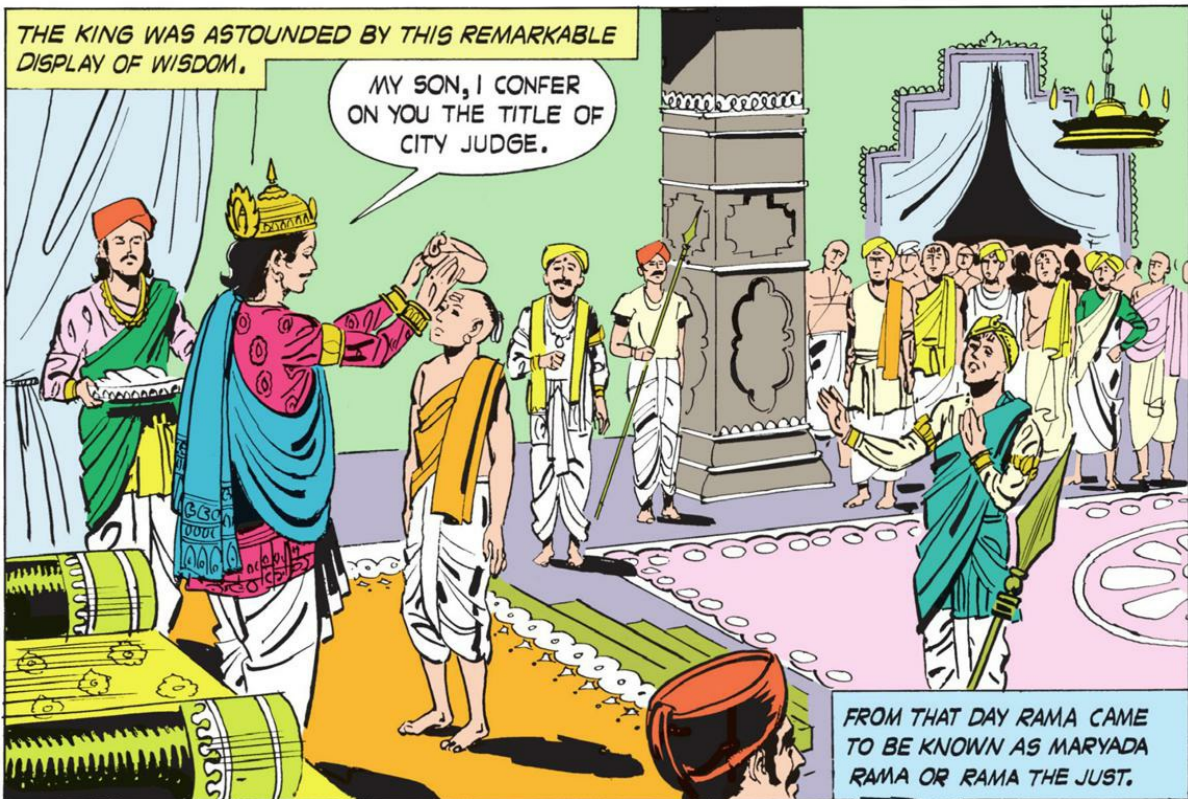
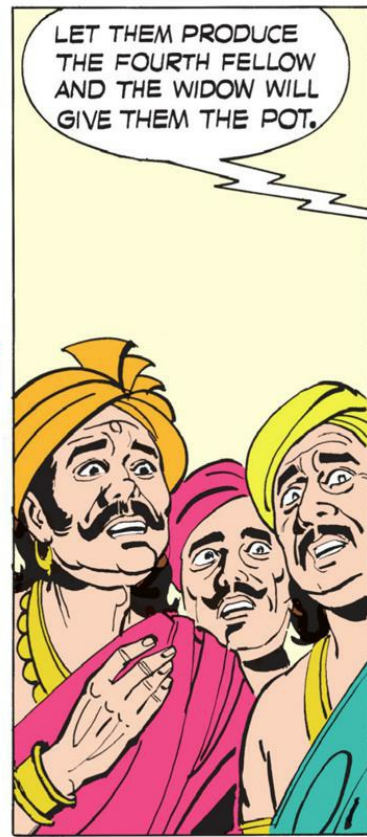
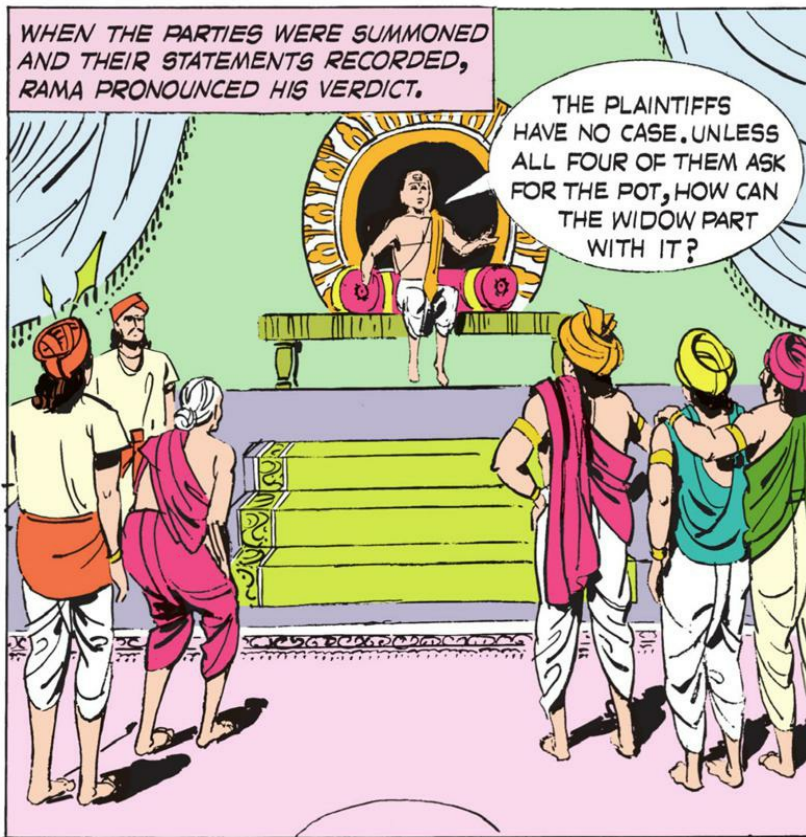
WELL, MY SON! TAKE THE JUDGE'S SEAT AND SEE IF YOU CAN DO BETTER.



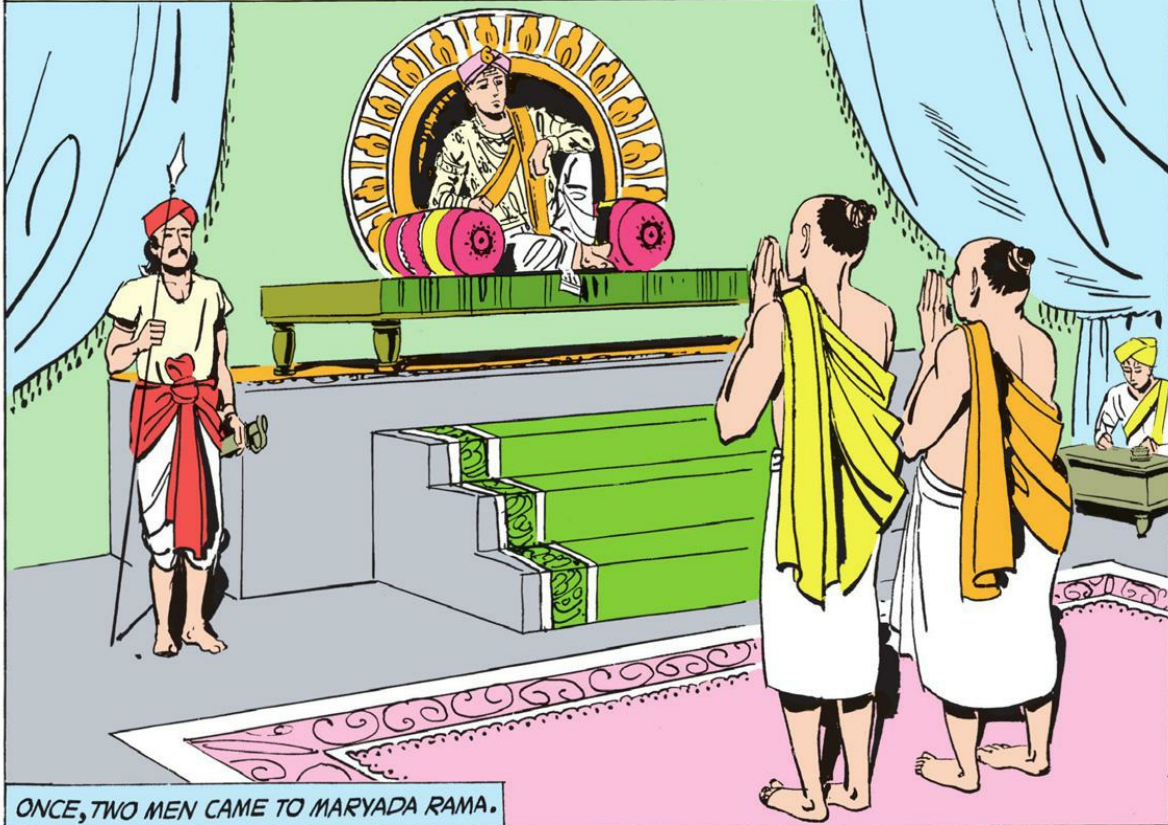
RAMA STEPPED BOLDLY UP AND TOOK THE SEAT.

SUMMON THE PARTIES.

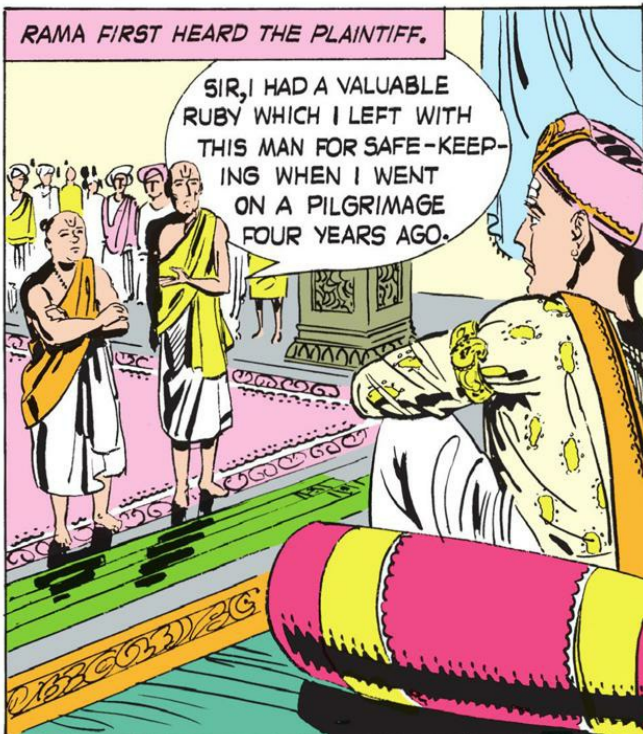




THE FALSE WITNESSES TRAPPED

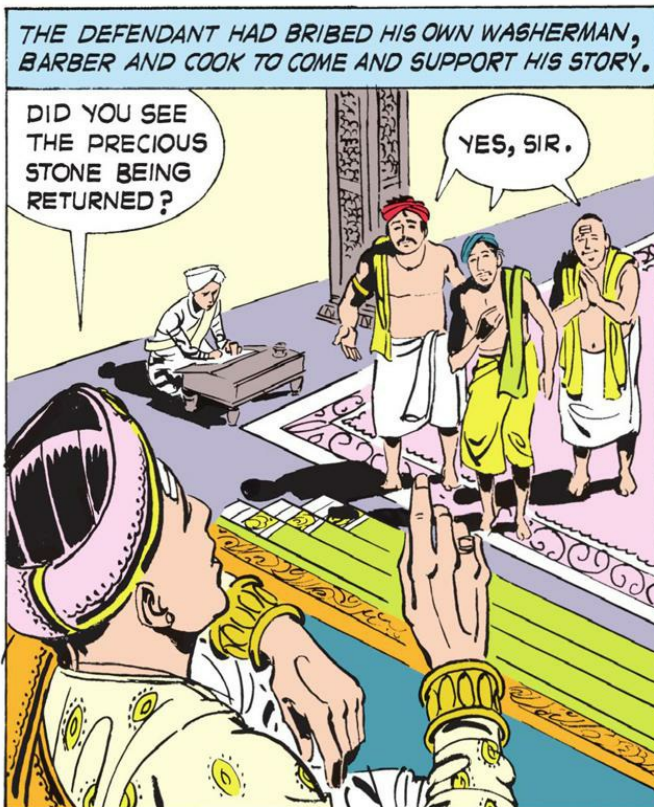
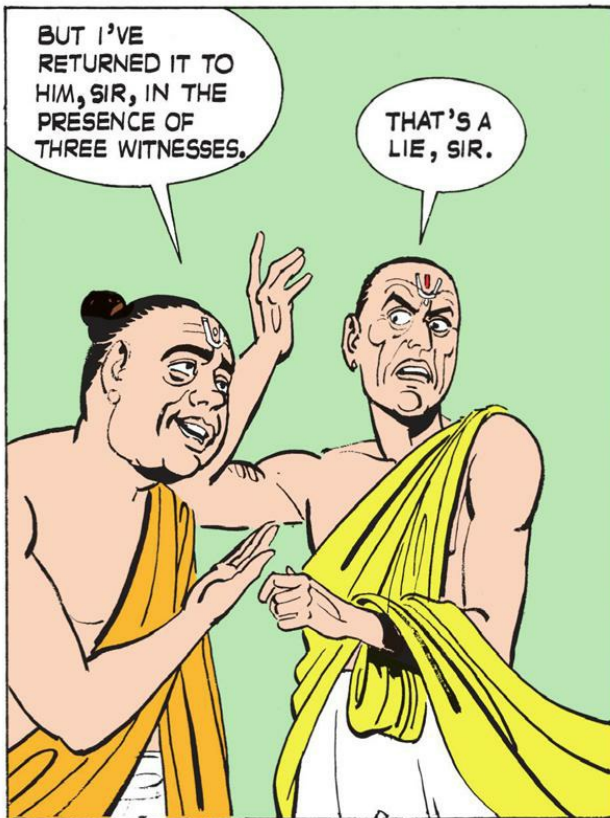


RAMA FIRST HEARD THE PLAINTIFF.



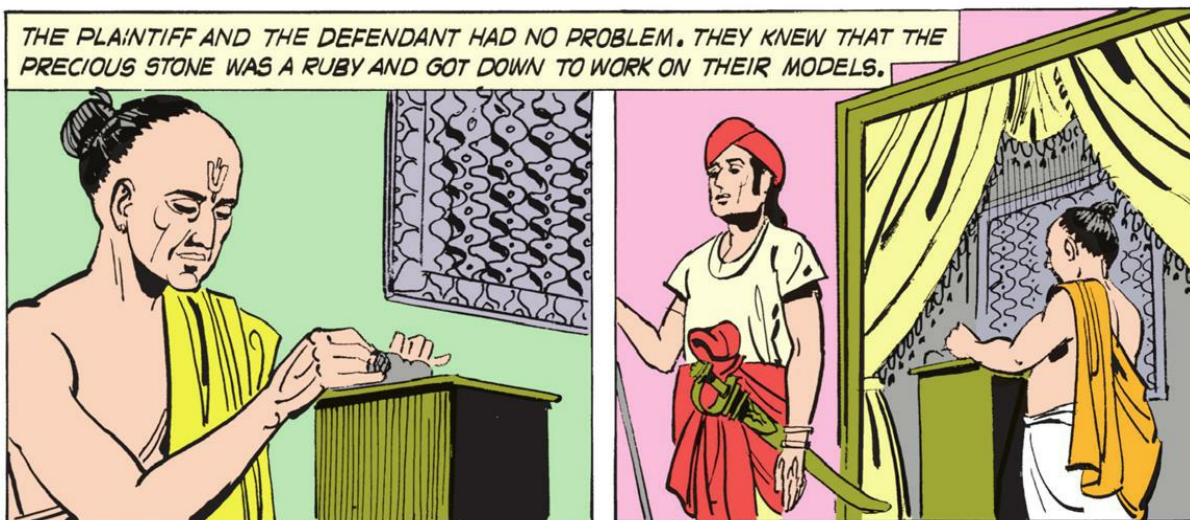
NOW HE REFUSES TO GIVE IT BACK.







THE PLAINTIFF AND THE DEFENDANT HAD NO PROBLEM. THEY KNEW THAT THE PRECIOUS STONE WAS A RUBY AND GOT DOWN TO WORK ON THEIR MODELS.

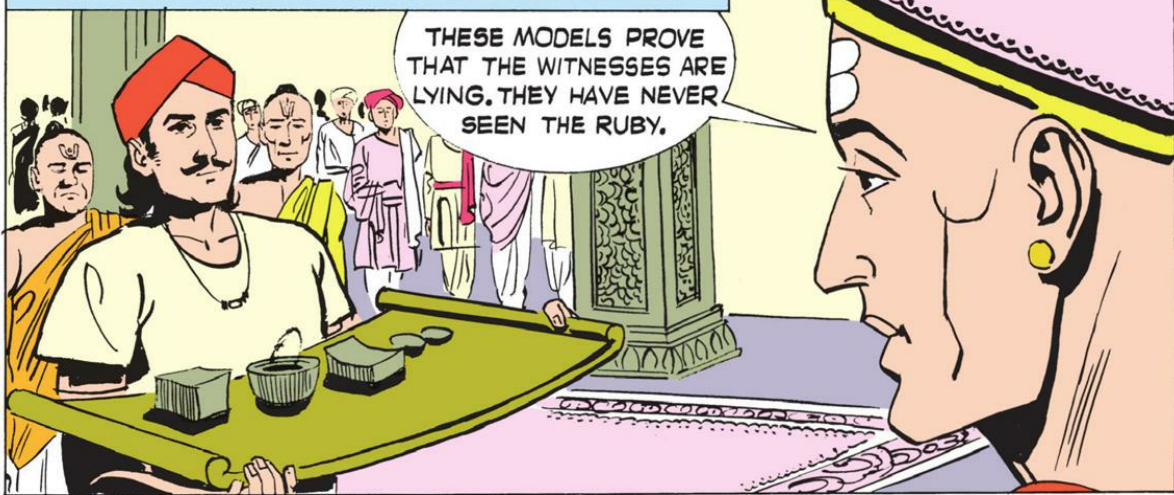


BUT THE FALSE WITNESSES WHO HAD NEVER SEEN THE RUBY, DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO, SO EACH OF THEM MADE A MODEL OF WHAT WAS TO HIM A PRECIOUS STONE—THE STONE USED IN HIS TRADE.



* STONE FOR GRINDING SPICES.

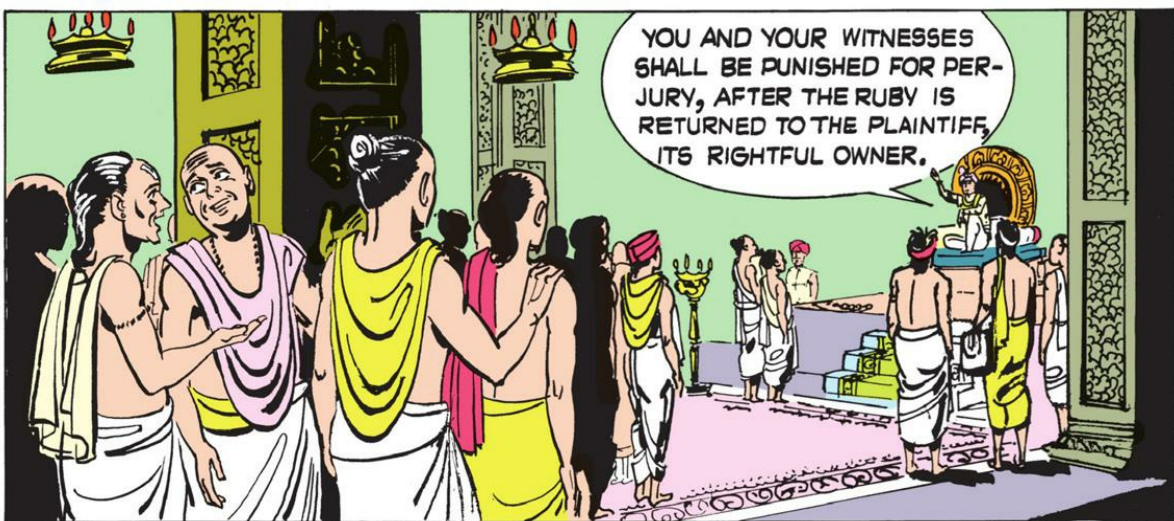
WHEN THE FIVE MODELS WERE PLACED BEFORE RAMA —

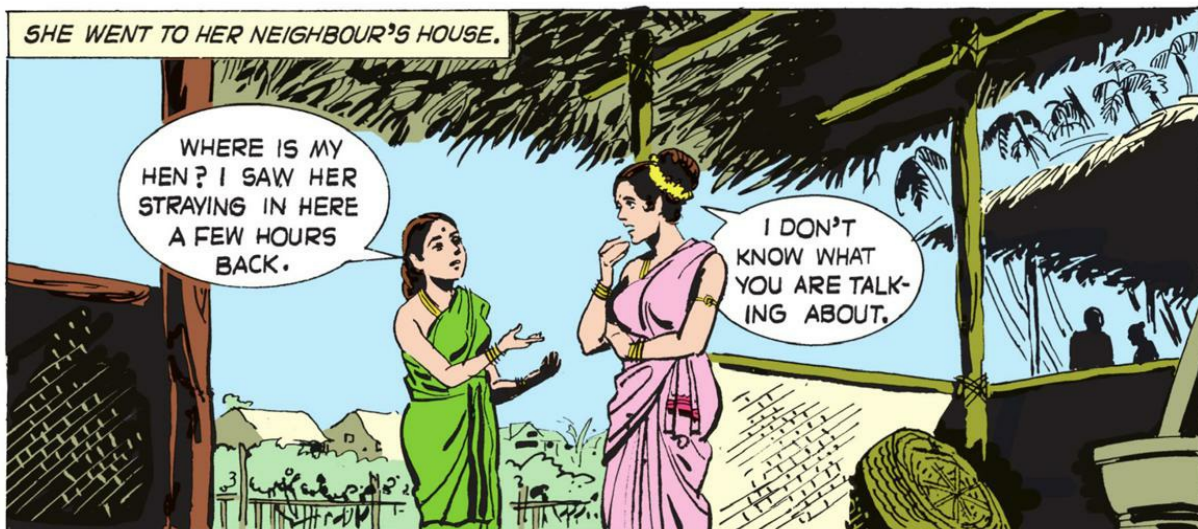
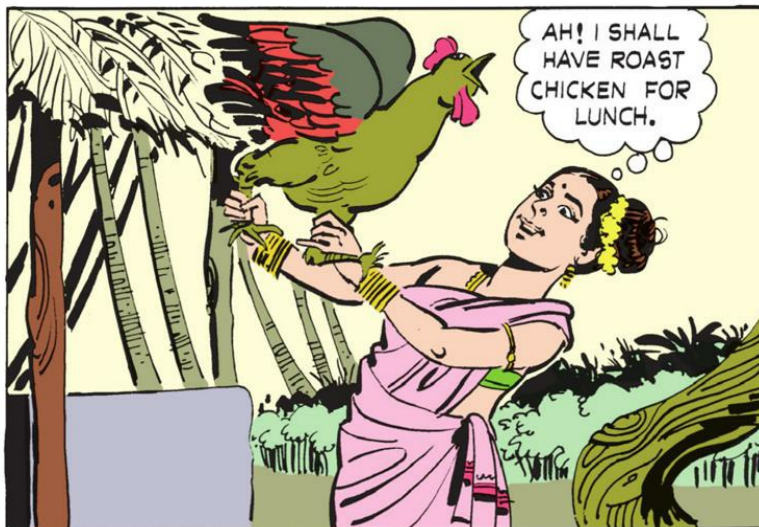
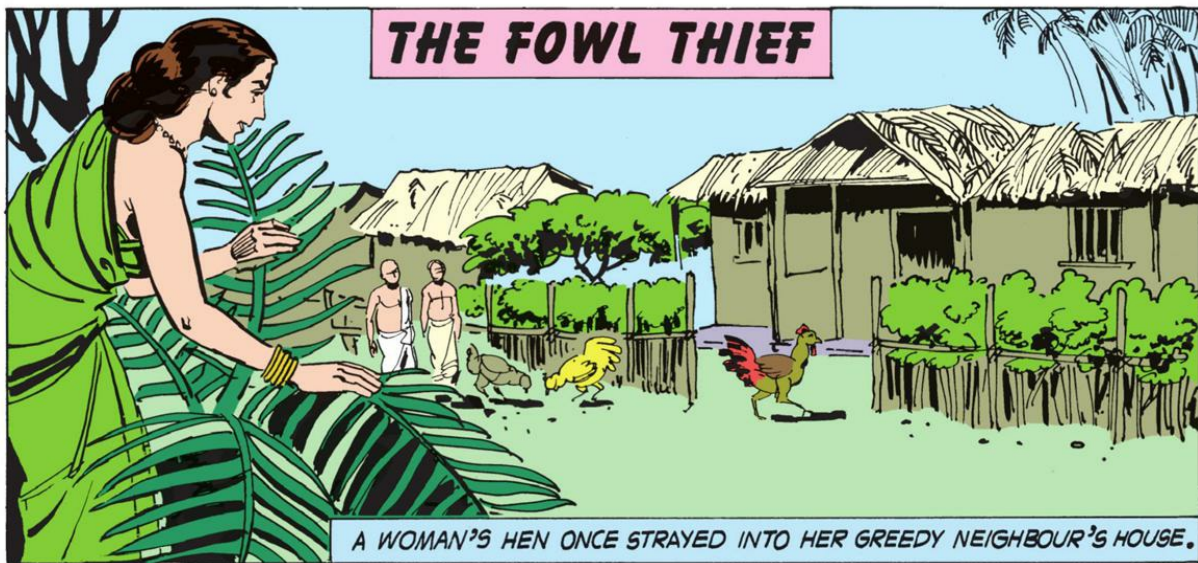


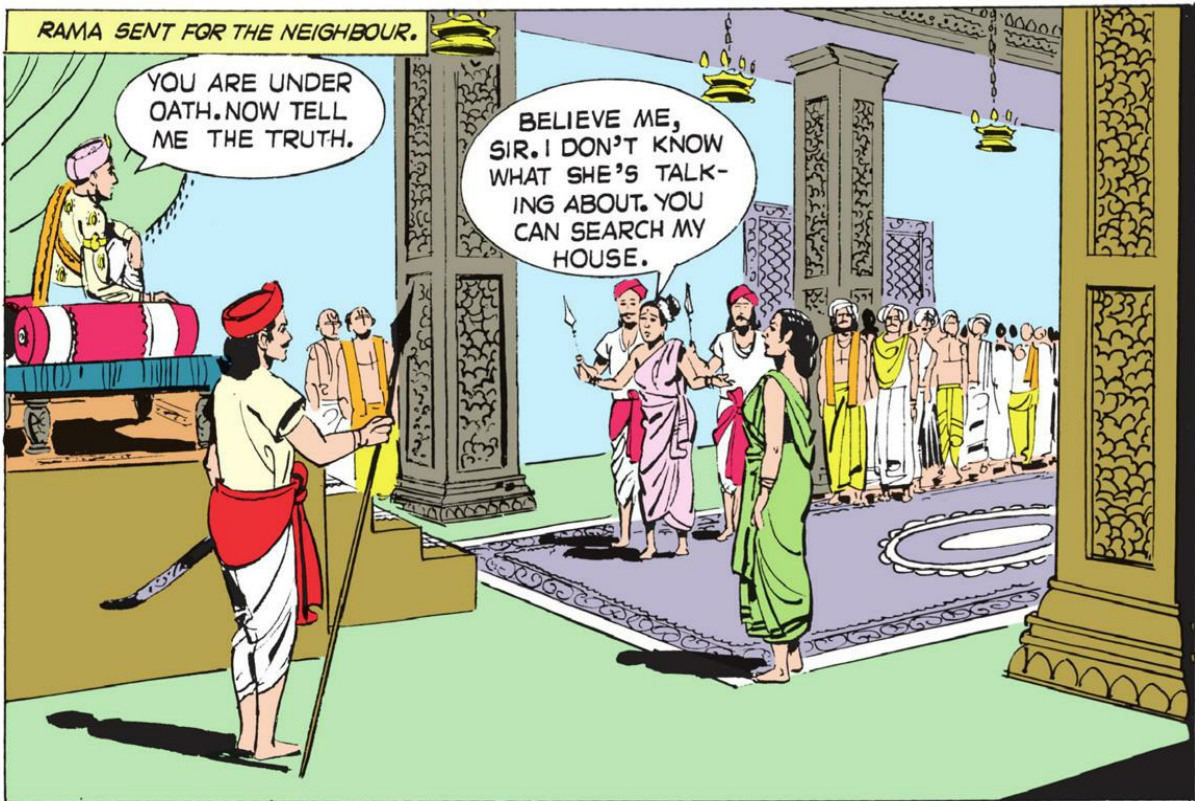
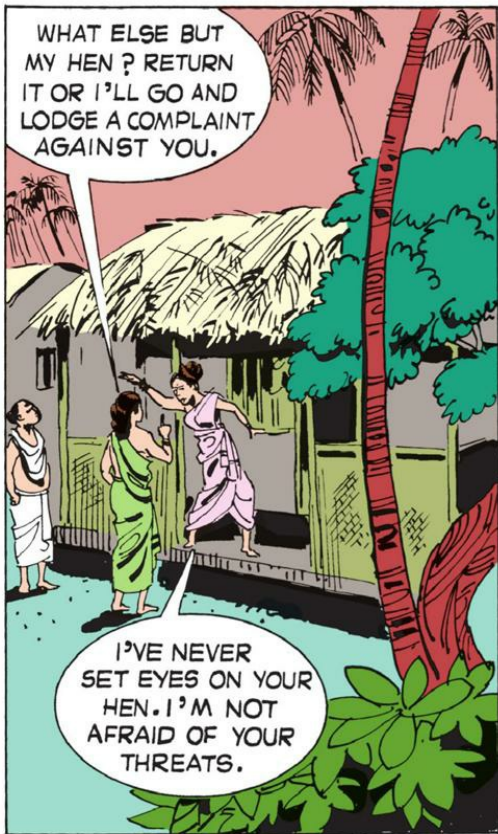
HE LOOKED STERNLY AT THE DEFENDANT.



YOU AND YOUR WITNESSES SHALL BE PUNISHED FOR PERJURY, AFTER THE RUBY IS RETURNED TO THE PLAINTIFF, ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER.







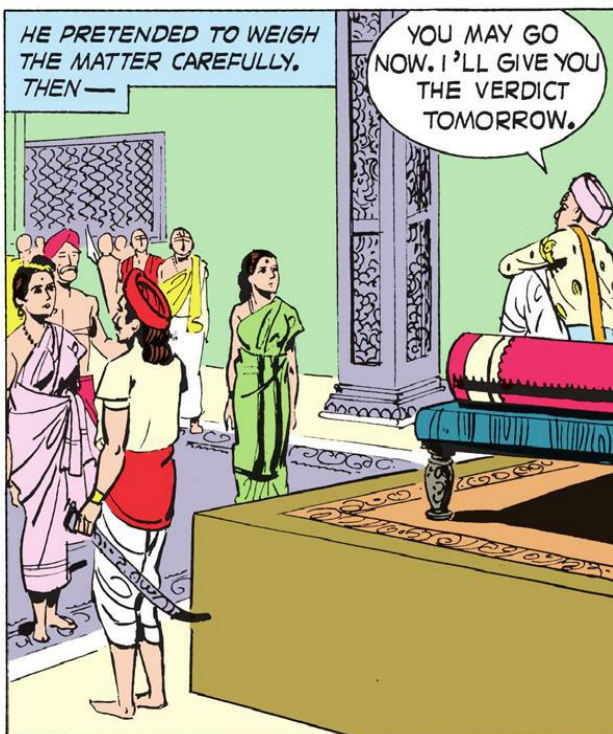
RAMA WAS INCLINED TO BELIEVE THE PLAINTIFF'S STORY BUT THERE WAS NO PROOF OF THE SUSPECT'S GUILT.

I'M SURE SHE'S COOKED THE FOWL AND EATEN IT. I'LL GET THE TRUTH OUT OF HER YET.



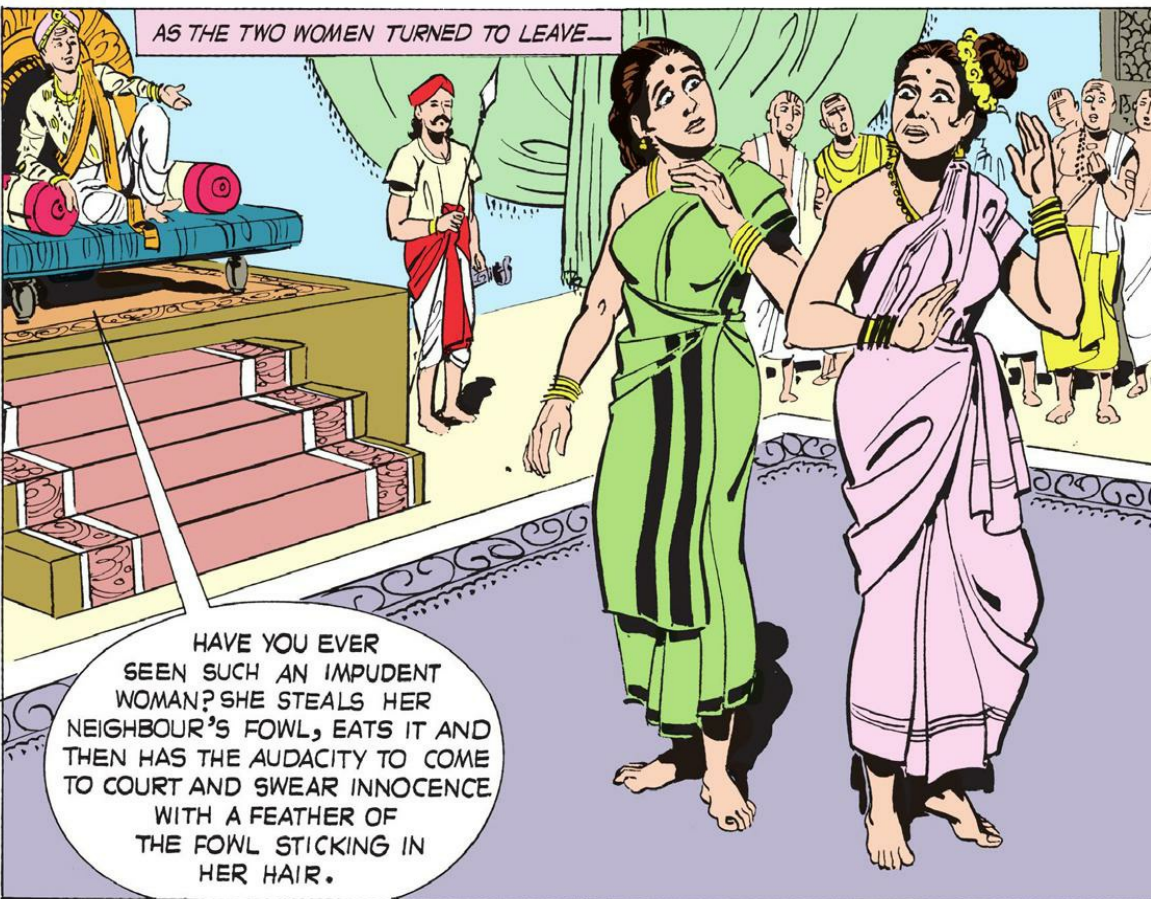
HE PRETENDED TO WEIGH THE MATTER CAREFULLY. THEN —

YOU MAY GO NOW. I'LL GIVE YOU THE VERDICT TOMORROW.



AS THE TWO WOMEN TURNED TO LEAVE —

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SUCH AN IMPUDENT WOMAN? SHE STEALS HER NEIGHBOUR'S FOWL, EATS IT AND THEN HAS THE AUDACITY TO COME TO COURT AND SWEAR INNOCENCE WITH A FEATHER OF THE FOWL STICKING IN HER HAIR.



THE MOMENT THE GUILTY WOMAN HEARD RAMA'S WORDS, SHE PASSED HER HAND OVER HER HAIR.

HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO CARELESS!



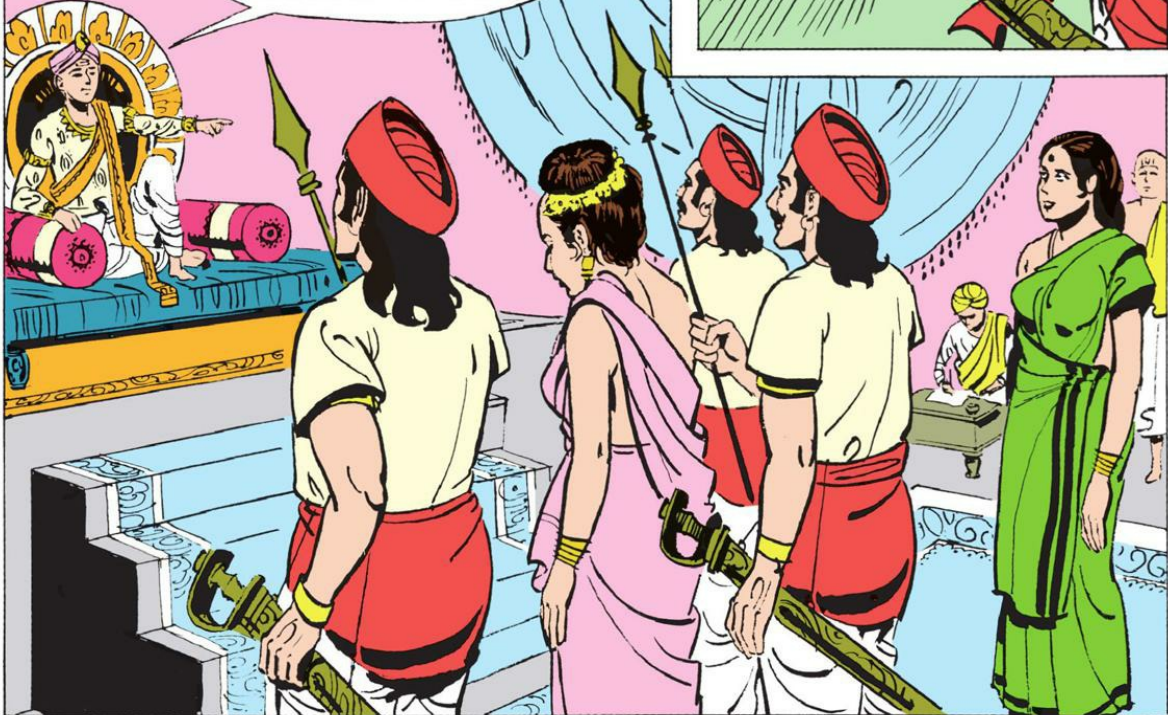
THE NEXT MOMENT —

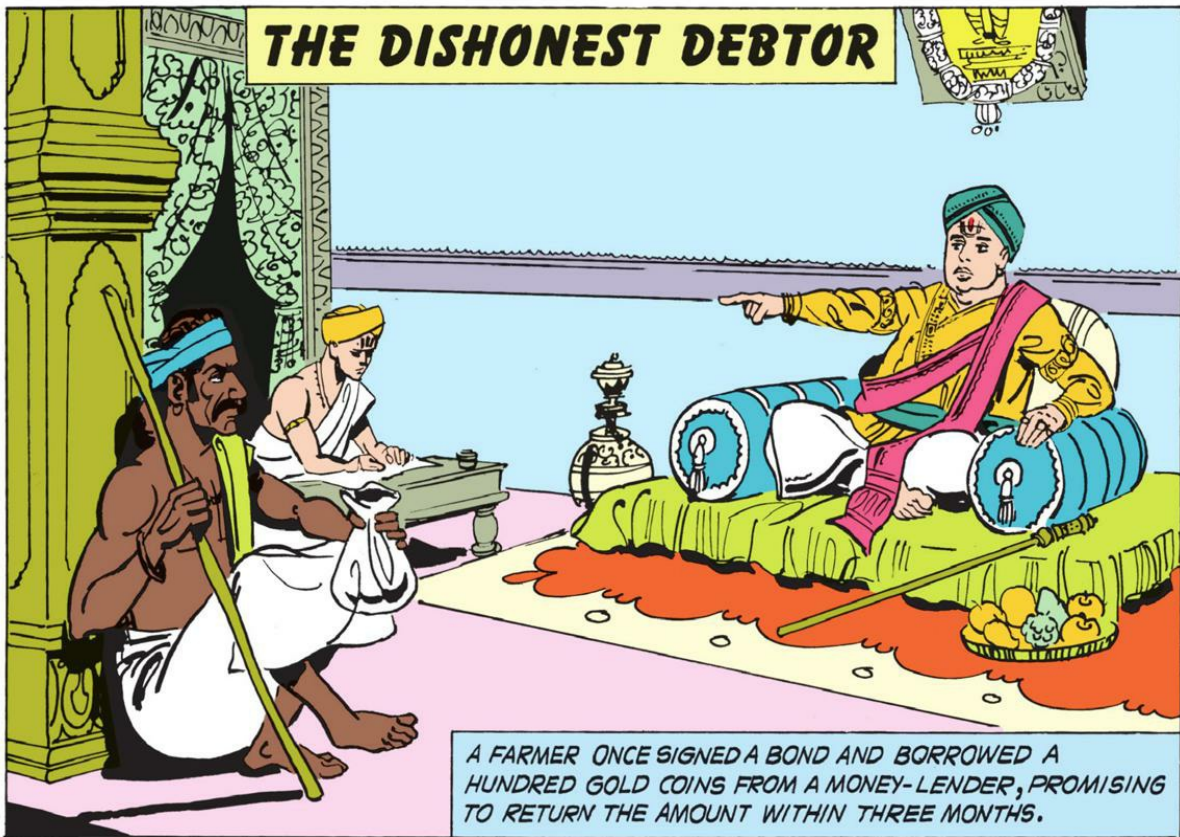
SEIZE HER!
SHE IS
GUILTY.



THE SUSPECT STOOD SHAME-FACEDLY BEFORE RAMA.

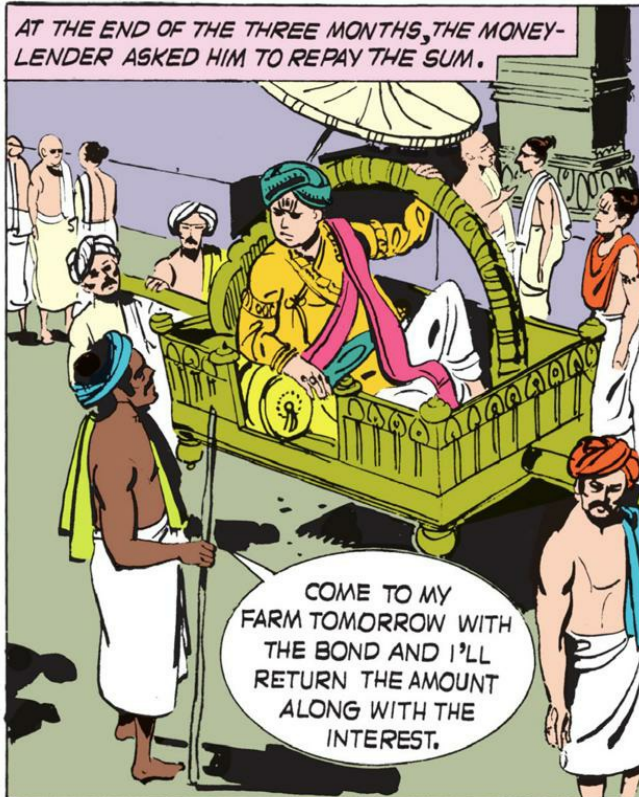
YOU WILL REPLACE THE STOLEN
BIRD AND PAY A HEAVY FINE TO
THE COURT FOR UTTERING A
FALSEHOOD UNDER OATH.





A FARMER ONCE SIGNED A BOND AND BORROWED A HUNDRED GOLD COINS FROM A MONEY-LENDER, PROMISING TO RETURN THE AMOUNT WITHIN THREE MONTHS.

AT THE END OF THE THREE MONTHS, THE MONEY-LENDER ASKED HIM TO REPAY THE SUM.



COME TO MY FARM TOMORROW WITH THE BOND AND I'LL RETURN THE AMOUNT ALONG WITH THE INTEREST.

THE MONEY-LENDER WENT THE NEXT DAY WITH THE BOND.



THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME MISTAKE ABOUT THE DATE. LET ME SEE THE BOND.

THE UNGUSPECTING MONEY-LENDER GAVE THE BOND TO HIM.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



I'M MAKING SURE THAT YOU'LL NEVER TROUBLE ME FOR THE MONEY AGAIN.

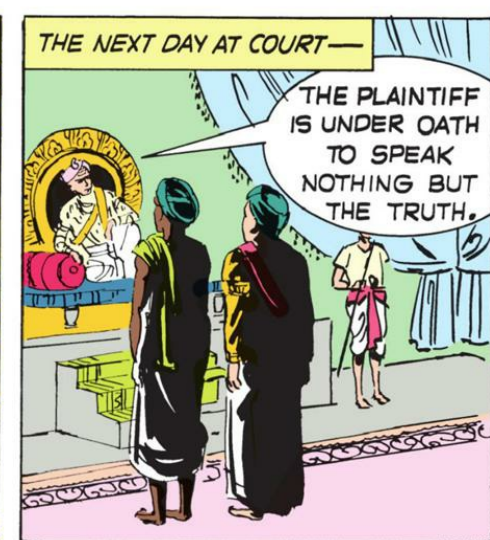
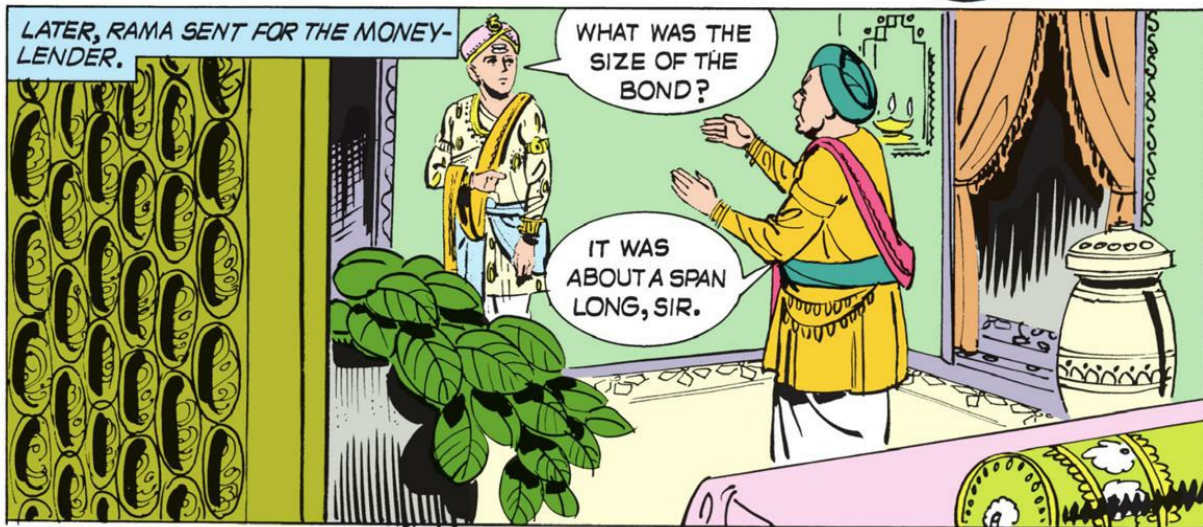
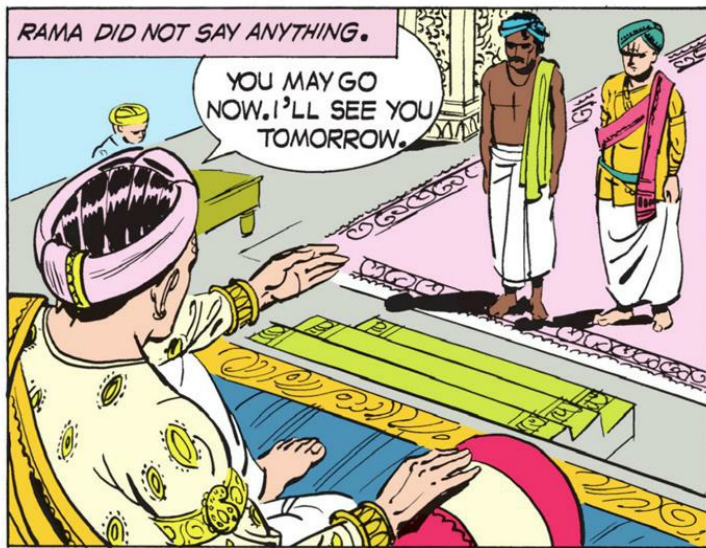


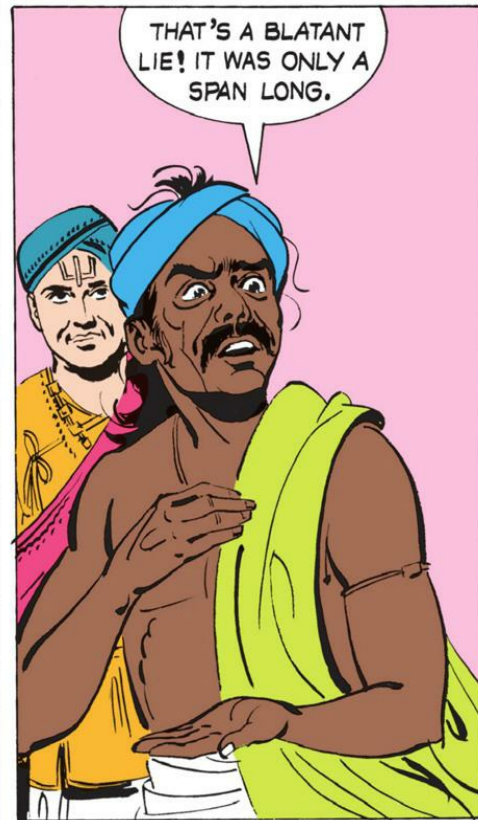
WHEN THE POOR MONEY-LENDER COMPLAINED TO MARYADA RAMA, HE SENT FOR THE FARMER.

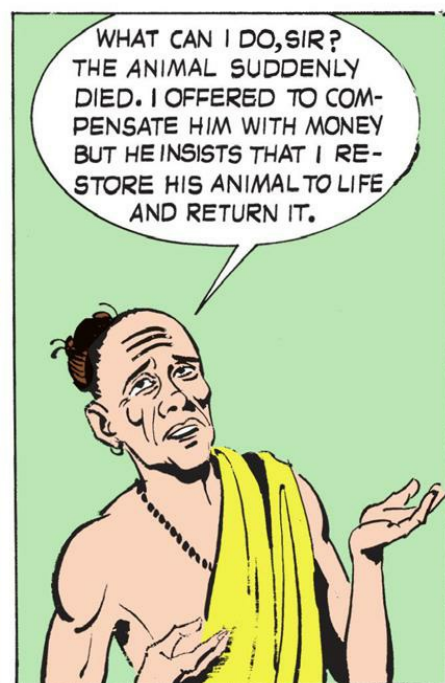
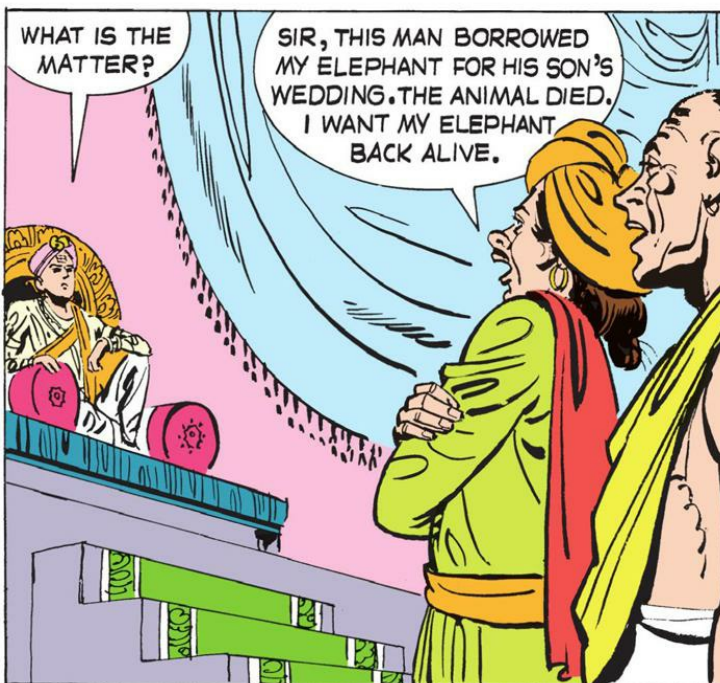
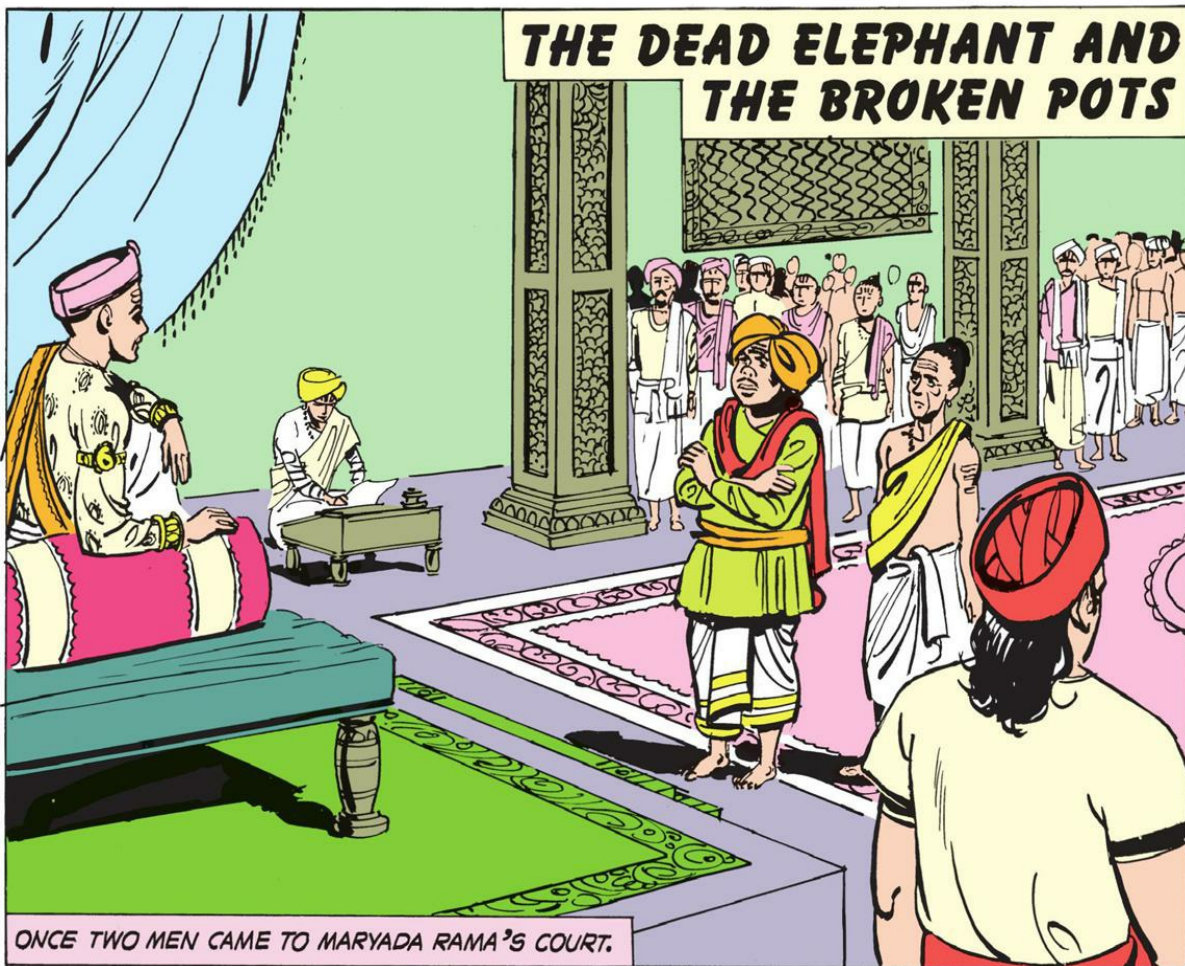


WHY DID YOU TEAR UP THE BOND?

WHAT BOND, SIR? I KNOW NOTHING OF ANY BOND. THIS MAN IS A LIAR!







RAMA TRIED TO PERSUADE THE PLAINTIFF TO ACCEPT THE MONEY BUT IN VAIN.



THE MAN IS A STUBBORN, UNREASONABLE FOOL. I'LL HAVE TO TEACH HIM A LESSON.

LET US POSTPONE THE CASE FOR A DAY. WE'LL TAKE UP THE MATTER AGAIN, TOMORROW.



AN HOUR LATER, HE SENT FOR THE DEFENDANT.

PILE UP ALL THE POTTERY YOU HAVE IN THE HOUSE, AGAINST YOUR DOOR TOMORROW. AND DON'T COME TO COURT TILL THE PLAINTIFF ARRIVES PERSONALLY TO CALL YOU.

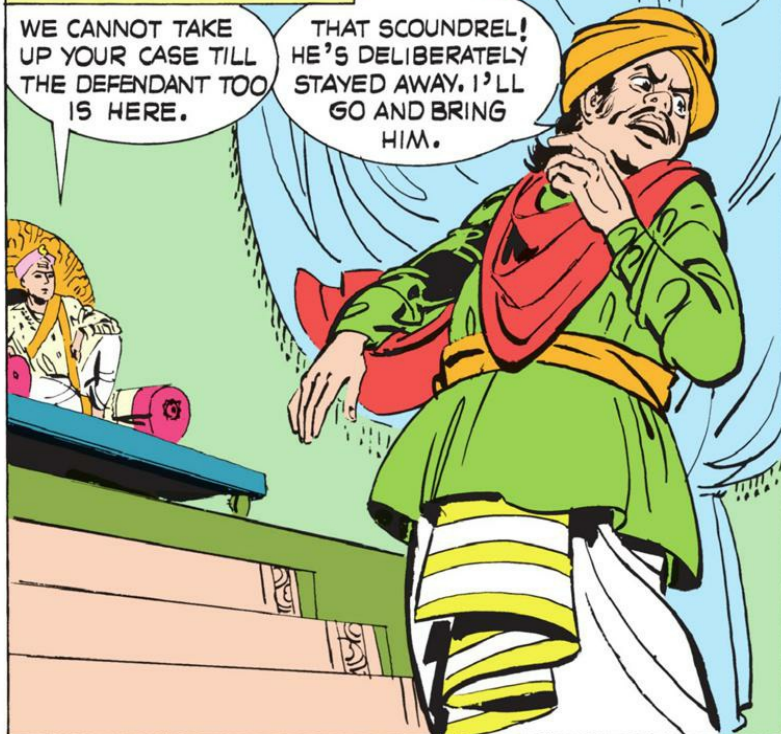


THE DEFENDANT IMMEDIATELY CAUGHT ON.

THE NEXT DAY, THE PLAINTIFF CAME TO COURT AT THE APPOINTED HOUR. BUT —

WE CANNOT TAKE UP YOUR CASE TILL THE DEFENDANT TOO IS HERE.

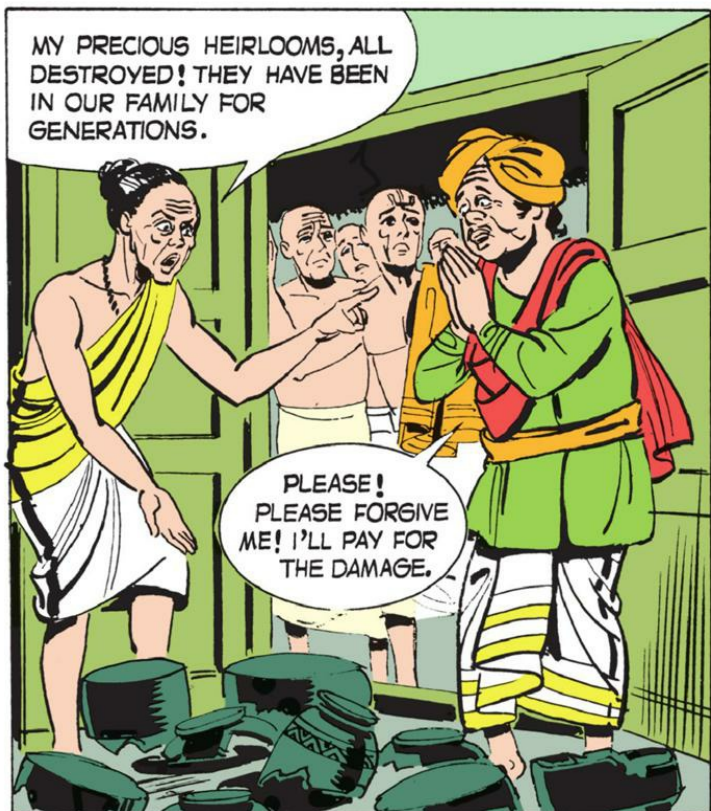
THAT SCOUNDREL! HE'S DELIBERATELY STAYED AWAY. I'LL GO AND BRING HIM.

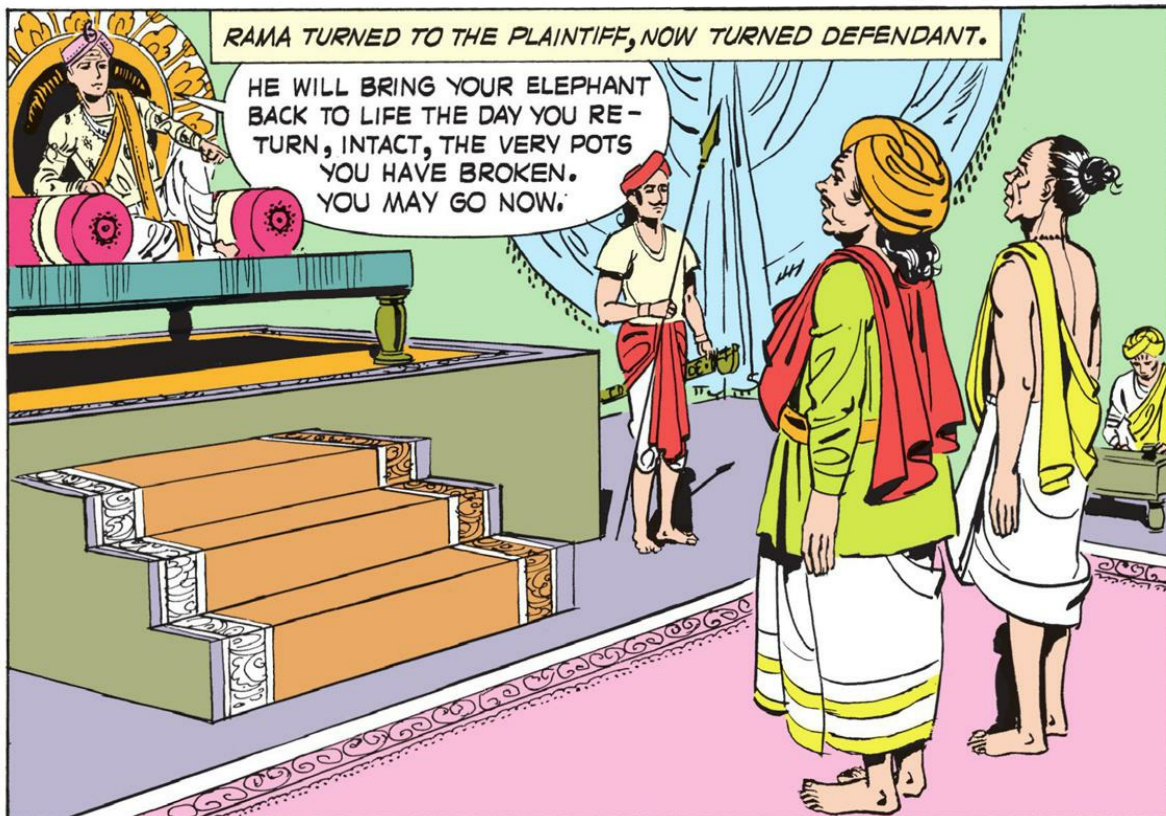
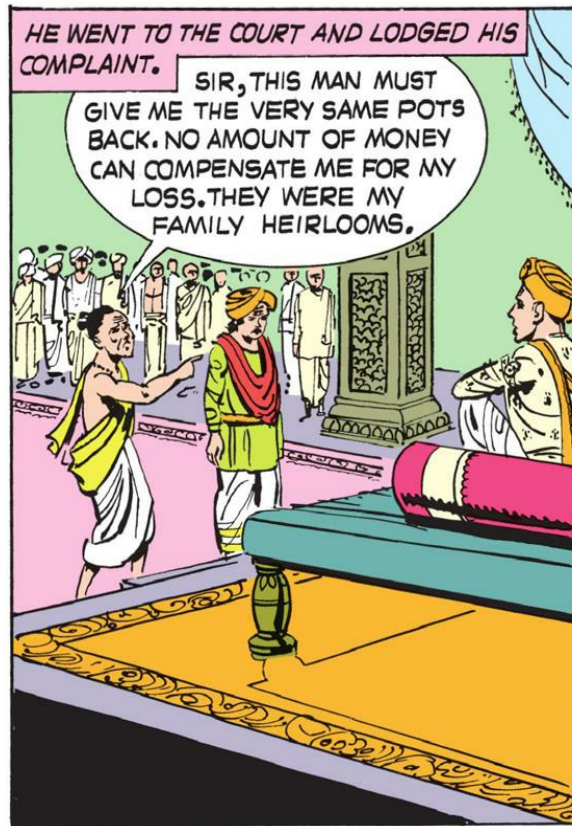


HE RUSHED TO THE DEFENDANT'S HOUSE AND PUSHED THE DOOR.

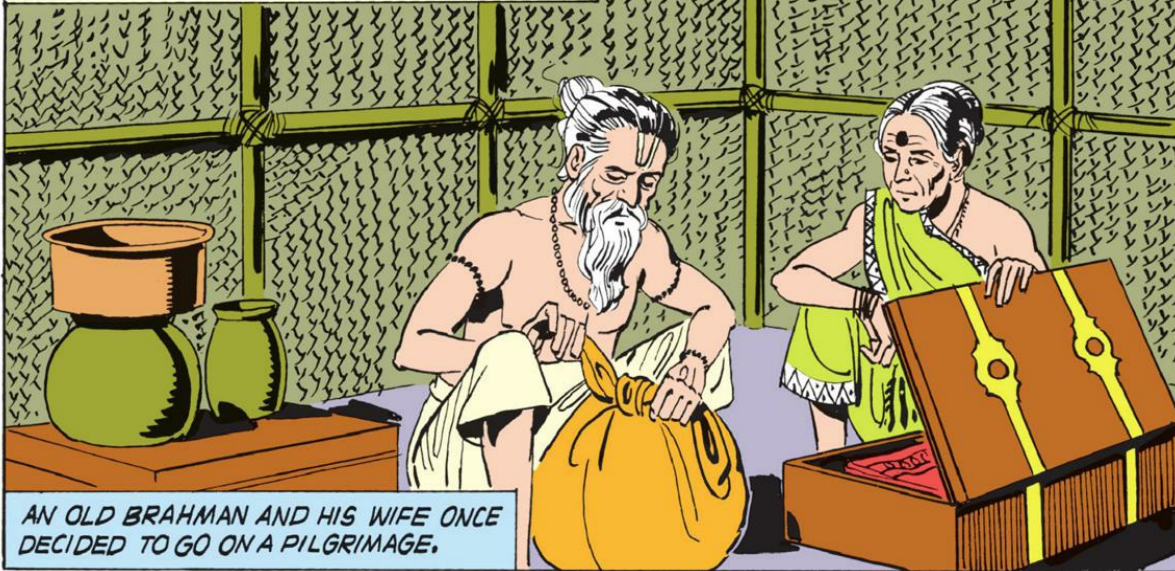


TO HIS SURPRISE THERE WAS A LOUD CRASH.





THE BRAHMAN'S GOLD



AN OLD BRAHMAN AND HIS WIFE ONCE DECIDED TO GO ON A PILGRIMAGE.



THEY PLACED ALL THEIR SAVINGS IN A BRASS POT AND FILLED IT WITH DAL.*

I'LL LEAVE IT WITH THE NEIGHBOURS FOR SAFE-KEEPING.



AT THE NEIGHBOUR'S HOUSE —

YOU MAY LEAVE IT IN THAT CORNER. NO ONE WILL TOUCH IT. TRUST ME.

ONE NIGHT, A FEW DAYS LATER, THE NEIGHBOURS HAD EIGHT UNEXPECTED GUESTS FOR DINNER.



WHAT SHALL I DO? I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING IN THE HOUSE. AND IT'S TOO LATE TO GO TO THE BAZAAR.

WE COULD BORROW SOME OF THE DAL FROM THE BRAHMAN'S POT AND REPLACE IT TOMORROW.

* SPLIT PULSES

AS HE POURED OUT THE DAL FROM THE POT —

WHAT'S THIS!
GOLD COINS!

LET'S KEEP
THE COINS AND FILL
THE VESSEL
WITH DAL.

GREED GOT THE BETTER OF THE MAN AND
HE DID AS HIS WIFE SUGGESTED.

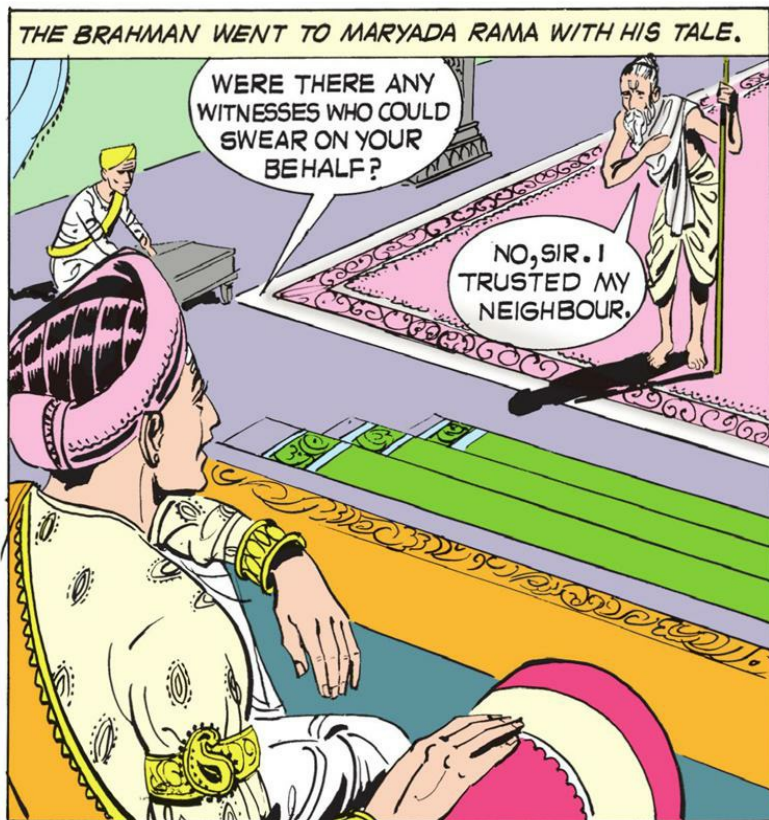
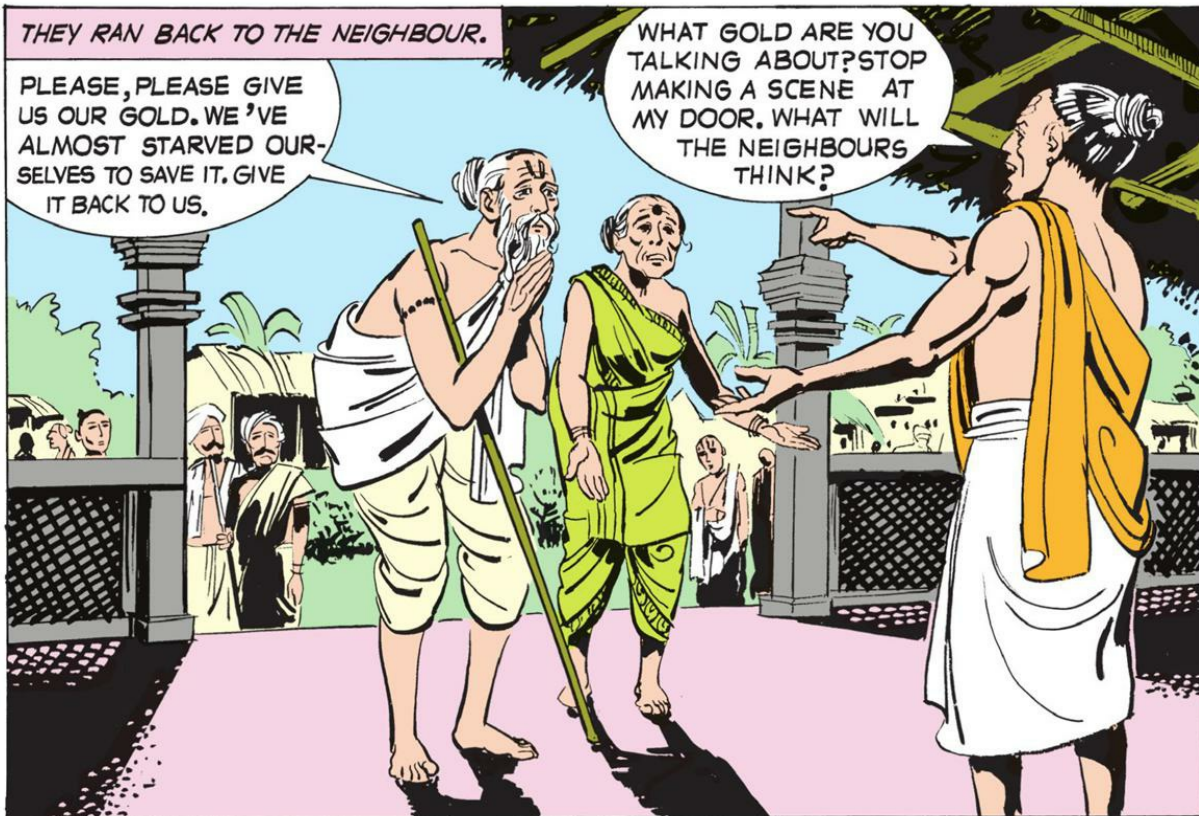
AS SOON AS THE BRAHMAN AND HIS
WIFE RETURNED FROM THEIR PILGRIM-
AGE, THEY WENT NEXT DOOR FOR THE
POT.

THERE YOU ARE!
WE HAVEN'T EVEN
MOVED IT FROM
THAT CORNER.

THE BRAHMAN TOOK THE POT, WENT HOME, AND TIP-
PED OUT THE CONTENTS.

WHERE IS THE
GOLD? THEY'VE
STOLEN THE
GOLD!

ALAS! WHAT
WILL WE DO? WE
ARE TOO OLD TO
WORK.



HE SENT FOR A BASKET-MAKER.



WHEN THE IDOL WAS BROUGHT TO COURT, RAMA SENT FOR A BRIGHT CHILD.



WHEN THE CHILD WAS COMFORTABLY SEATED INSIDE THE IDOL, RAMA SENT FOR THE NEIGHBOUR AND HIS WIFE.



TREMBLING WITH FEAR, THE COUPLE CARRIED THE IDOL TO THE TEMPLE AND BEGAN WALKING ROUND IT.



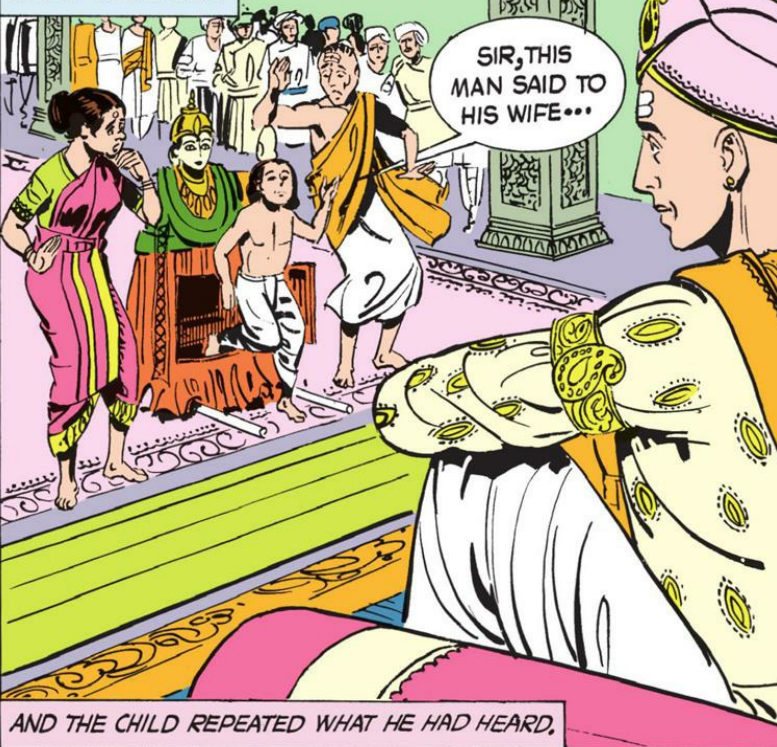
WHILE THEY WERE AT THE BACK OF THE TEMPLE AND OUT OF EARSHOT, AS HE BELIEVED, THE HUSBAND TURNED ANGRILY UPON HIS WIFE.



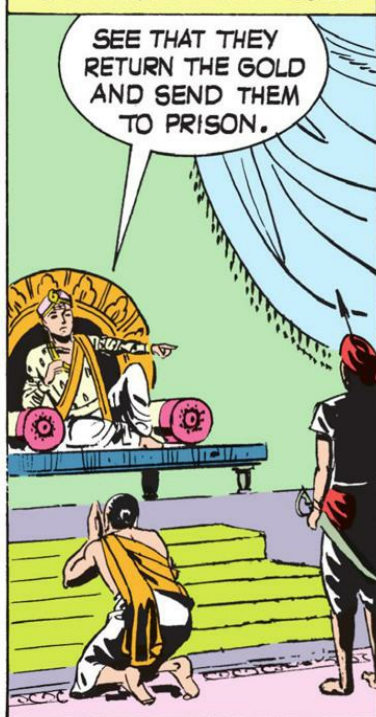
INSIDE THE IDOL—



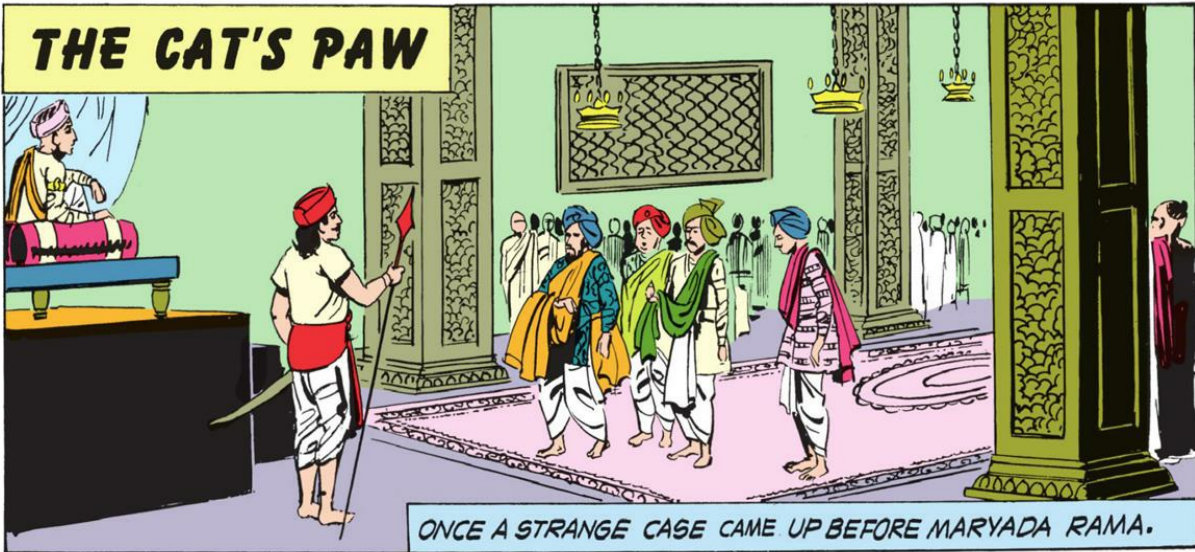
AS SOON AS THE IDOL WAS BROUGHT BACK TO COURT, THE CHILD CAME OUT.



KNOWING THAT HE WAS TRAPPED, THE NEIGHBOUR FELL ON HIS KNEES AND CONFESSED.

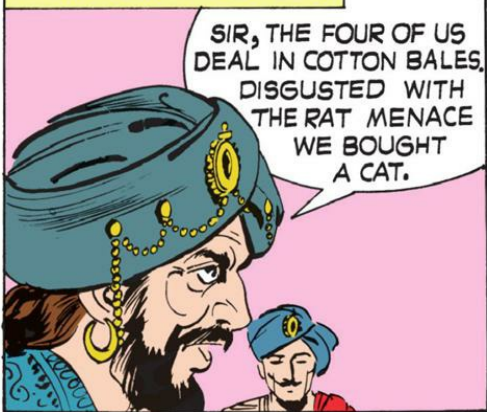


THE CAT'S PAW



ONCE A STRANGE CASE CAME UP BEFORE MARYADA RAMA.

THE PLAINTIFFS WERE THREE COTTON MERCHANTS AND THE DEFENDANT, THEIR FOURTH PARTNER.



SIR, THE FOUR OF US DEAL IN COTTON BALES, DISGUSTED WITH THE RAT MENACE WE BOUGHT A CAT.

"WE BECAME SO FOND OF THE CAT THAT EACH OF US TOOK CHARGE OF ONE OF ITS LEGS AND SHOWERED ATTENTION ON IT.



HERE IS A FINE ANKLET FOR MY LEG.

IT'S NOT AS FINE AS MINE.

"ONE DAY, THE CAT HURT ONE OF ITS LEGS—THE ONE BELONGING TO THE DEFENDANT.



MIAOW!

THERE! THERE! I'LL BIND IT WITH THIS OIL-SOAKED RAG AND IT WILL SOON BE ALL RIGHT.

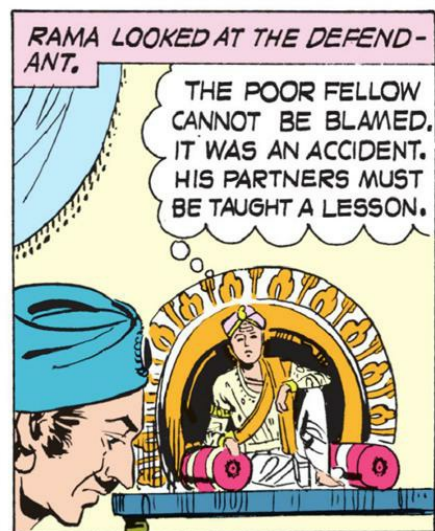
"THAT NIGHT, AS THE CAT LIMPED ABOUT AFTER THE RATS, IT STEPPED ON AN OIL LAMP AND THE RAG CAUGHT FIRE.



"MAD WITH PAIN, IT DASHED HITHER AND THITHER AND SET ALL THE BALES ON FIRE.



"WHEN WE WOKE UP, IT WAS TOO LATE. ALL THE GOODS WERE DESTROYED.

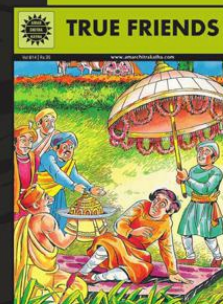
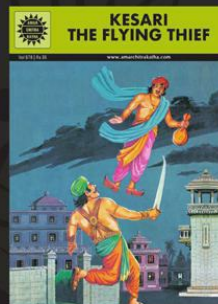
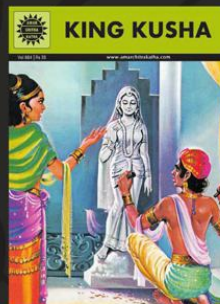
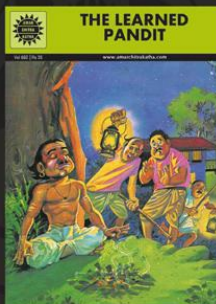


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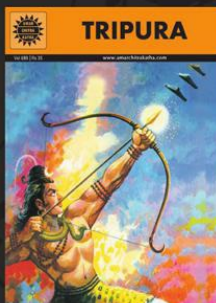
Rich or poor, old or young, Maryada Rama was fair to all. Though it was not always easy to figure who was right and who was wrong, Maryada Rama always found a way. No wonder the king bestowed on the young man the title of City Judge.

FABLES &
HUMOUR

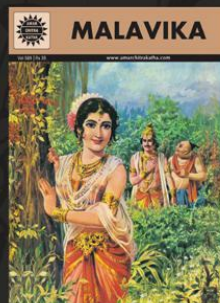
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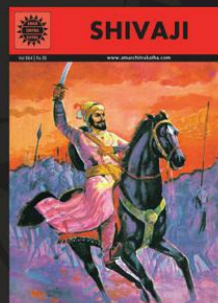
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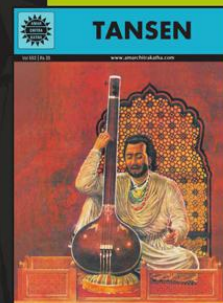
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